



# A PAINFUL PATH

## MISUNDERSTANDINGS & ACCOMMODATIONS

### ACTS 21:17-26

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • October 7 & 8, 2023 • Acts, week 106 • Msg. 23-30

## 1. Weather \_\_\_\_\_

(vv.17-22)

## 2. Know \_\_\_\_\_

(vv.23a)

## 3. Do \_\_\_\_\_

(vv.23b-26)

**Acts 21:17** When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. **18** On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. **19** After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. **20** And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, "You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law, **21** and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs. **22** What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. **23** Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; **24** take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that you yourself also live in observance of the law. **25** But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality." **26** Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them. (ESV)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **1 Samuel 24:9**. We have all certainly asked something similar. How do you feel when you find people thinking the worst of you in a given situation? How can you keep from doing the same to others?
2. Read **Galatians 5:14-15**; **Leviticus 19:18** and **James 2:8**. How can this central biblical principle serve as a strong safeguard for our church (and the broader Christian community) against destructive misunderstandings?
3. Read **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**. Give a couple of examples of the kinds of adjustments you might make in your life (within the limits of what is allowed in God's word) to evangelize or minister to someone for Christ.
4. Read **Matthew 5:23-24**. How do these verses show the importance that God places on the relationships between his children? Picture yourself responding to this command in this specific setting. Describe how the motive to swiftly fix the relational problem might necessitate flexing, accommodating, and being conciliatory.
5. Read **Galatians 5:26**. How do pride and conceit factor into fracturing the unity of God's people?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

Msg. 22-20 – **Grace & Works**

Msg. 06-33 – **Why Did We Need a New Covenant Anyway?**

Msg. 06-34 – **Why Don't We Have to Keep All Those Old Testament Ceremonies?**

Msg. 22-21 – **Unified by the Truth**

Msg. 22-22 – **Strengthened by Our Unity**

Msg. 11-31 – 11-35 – **The Black & White on Gray Areas** (5-part series)

Msg. 21-03 – 21-10 – **Gospel Lessons from the Old Testament** (8-part series)

## Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Oct. 8 <sup>th</sup> .....	Is.39-40 & Phil.4
Oct. 9 <sup>th</sup> .....	Is.41-42 & Col.1
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup> .....	Is.43-44 & Col.2
Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> .....	Is.45-47 & Col.3
Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup> .....	Is.48-49 & Col.4
Oct. 13 <sup>th</sup> .....	Is.50-52 & 1Th.1
Oct. 14 <sup>th</sup> .....	Is.53-55 & 1Th.2
Oct. 15 <sup>th</sup> .....	Is.56-58 & 1Th.3

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

Brown, William. **The Tabernacle: Its Priests and Its Services**. Reprint. Hendrickson Publishing, 1996.

Edersheim, Alfred. **The Temple: Its Ministry and Services (updated edition)**. Hendrickson Publishing, 1994.

Edwards, Jonathan. **Charity and Its Fruits**. Banner of Truth, 1969.

Fisk, Bruce N. "Eating Meat Offered to Idols" *Trinity Journal* 10 (1989): 49-70.

Kroll, Woodrow. **Struggling with Selfishness: Choosing to Look Past Yourself**. Back to the Bible, 1996.

Lloyd-Jones, D. Martyn. **Ephesians 4:1-16. An Exposition on Christian Unity**. Baker Books, 1998.

Morris, Leon. **Testaments of Love: A Study of Love in the Bible**. Eerdmans, 1981.

Schaeffer, Francis. **The Church at the End of the Twentieth Century**. Crossway Books, 1994.

Smith, William P. **How to Love Difficult People: Receiving and Sharing God's Mercy**. NG Press, 2008.

Still III, E. Coye. "The Meaning and Uses of 'Idol Food'" *Trinity Journal* 23NS (2002): 225-234.

Strauch, Alexander. **The Hospitality Commands: Building Loving Christian Community**. Lewis & Roth, 2016.

Swindoll, Charles. **Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living**. Reprint. Word, 2002.

Wells, David F. **The Courage to Be Protestant: Truth-Lovers, Marketers & Emergents**. Eerdmans, 2009.