



A PAINFUL PATH

Well-Meaning but Misguided Friends
ACTS 21:1-16

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • September 30 & October 1, 2023 • Acts, week 105 • Msg. 23-29

1. Know _____
(vv.1-3, 14-16)

2. Expect _____
(vv.4-12)

3. Courageously _____
(v.13)

Acts 21:1 And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. **2** And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. **3** When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. **4** And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. **5** When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed **6** and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home. **7** When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. **8** On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. **9** He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. **10** While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. **11** And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" **12** When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. **13** Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." **14** And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done." **15** After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. **16** And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge. (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 **Ephesians 5:15-17**. What would you say to Christians who give very little thought to their lives, as to whether or not they are pursuing the course that God would have them walk in? What is the danger in that?
2. Read **Psalms 119:1-8**. Why are daily Bible study and daily prayerful application of biblical truth so important? How would you say you are doing at these daily disciplines? What can be done to ensure faithfulness in this?
3. Read **Psalms 23:1-4**. God providentially leads his obedient followers, at times into green pastures and at times into dark valleys. What would you say are some of the "darker" segments of the path God has you on currently?
4. Read **Matthew 16:21-23**. What are some ways kindhearted Christians have inadvertently become voices tempting you to set your mind on selfish goals as you walk through a "dark path" instead of being faithful to Christ?
5. Read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**. Describe ways you have experienced God's sustaining grace and empowerment when the path became darker, or the pain was extended further than you thought you could endure.

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

- Msg. 22-08 – **Whatever Comes Next**
- Msg. 22-10 – **Leveraging the Detours**
- Msg. 22-11 – **Tenacious Endurance**
- Msg. 22-12 – **Aiming for "Well Done"**
- Msg. 14-35 – **When Following Christ is Painful**
- Msg. 07-24 – **Looking Past the Pain to the Prize**
- Msg. 12-04 – **Learning to Encourage One Another**

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Oct. 1 st	Is.22-23 & Eph.3
Oct. 2 nd	Is.24-26 & Eph.4
Oct. 3 rd	Is.27-28 & Eph.5
Oct. 4 th	Is.29-30 & Eph.6
Oct. 5 th	Is.31-33 & Phil.1
Oct. 6 th	Is.34-36 & Phil.2
Oct. 7 th	Is.37-38 & Phil.3
Oct. 8 th	Is.39-40 & Phil.4

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.

- Alcorn, Randy. **If God is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil**. Multnomah Books, 2014.
- Beasley, Michael John. **The Fallible Prophets of New Calvinism**. Armoury, 2014.
- Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. **The Cost of Discipleship**. SCM Press Ltd., 1959.
- Bowman, Robert. **The Word-Faith Controversy: Understanding the Health and Wealth Gospel**. Baker Books, 2001.
- Cho, Sung. **Defending Agabus as a New Testament Prophet**. Christian Publishing House, 2018.
- Guinness, Os. **The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life**. Word Publishing, 1998.
- Kruis, John G. **Quick Scripture Reference for Counseling, Third Edition**. Baker Books, 2009.
- Leyshon, David. **Sickness, Suffering and Scripture**. Banner of Truth, 2008.
- Pritchard, Ray. **An Anchor for the Soul: Help for the Present, Hope for the Future**. Moody Press, 2000.
- Stein, Robert H. **A Basic Guide to Interpreting the Bible: Playing by the Rules**. Baker Books, 1994.
- Thomas, Derek W. H. **What is Providence?** P & R Publishing, 2008.
- Walton, John and Mark Strauss. **The Essential Bible Companion**. Zondervan, 2006.
- Water, Mark, ed. **The New Encyclopedia of Christian Martyrs**. Baker Books, 2001.