

Week 35

No Matter What... Bravely Onward!

The Compelling Power of Real Faith

In Acts 21:1-16, we read about Paul's journey to Jerusalem, where he knew he would face imprisonment and persecution for the sake of the gospel. He was warned by the Holy Spirit and by his fellow believers not to go, but he was determined to obey God's will and finish his course with joy. He said, "I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (v. 13). What an amazing example of faithfulness and courage!

Paul's commitment to be bound for Jerusalem shows us how much he loved Christ and his people. He was willing to sacrifice everything for the sake of the gospel, even his own life. He did not fear what man could do to him but trusted in God's sovereign plan and power. He knew that God would use his suffering for his glory and for the advancement of his kingdom.

We can learn a lot from Paul's attitude and actions in the face of trials and dangers. We too may face opposition, hardship, or even persecution for following Christ in this world. We may be tempted to shrink back, compromise, or give up. But we should remember that God is with us, that he has a purpose for our pain, and that he will reward us for our faithfulness. We should also remember that we are not alone, but we have a family of believers who can support us, pray for us, and encourage us along the way.

So, let's follow Paul's example and be ready to be bound for our Jerusalem, no matter the cost that lies ahead of us. Let's find strength in God's grace and power to face our trials bravely and joyfully. Let us say with Paul, "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (Acts 20:24).

c. Paul in Ephesus (19:1-41)

1. The Twelve Men (1-7)
2. In the Synagogue & School of Tyrannus (8-10)
3. God Confirming Paul's Message by Miracles (11, 12)
4. Seven Sons of Sceva (13-17)
5. Mass Repentance (18, 19)
6. A Summary Report of the Church in Asia (20)
7. Paul's Statement of His Plans: Jerusalem & Rome (21, 22)
8. The Riot in Ephesus
4. Three Months in Greece (20:1-5)
5. Paul's Sermon & Healing at Troas (20:6-12)
6. Paul's Words at Miletus with the Ephesian Elders (20:13-38)
7. Paul at Caesarea with Philip the Evangelist & the Warning of Agabus (21:1-16)

