

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, October 7, 2007

Passage: Acts 21:1-40

Memory Passage: Philippians 1:21

TODAY: From your study this past week, what is one thing that impressed you that can be of help in your life?

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 21:1-7.** Why did Paul's ship stop at Tyre? What did Paul do during his time there? What was Paul's practice when he was in any town even for a short time (Acts 21:4; Acts 21:7; Acts 28:13-14)? What does this tell us about the importance of our gathering together with other believers?
- (b) What did the disciples in Tyre tell Paul? What is Paul's response to them? What indicates that these disciples did not see Paul's actions as disobedience?
- (c) Was Paul ignoring what the Spirit was saying? What had Paul known from the day of his conversion (Acts 9:16)?
- (d) What did these believers do when Paul was departing (Acts 20:36)? What does this tell us about the way they treated each other even in disagreements (Romans 15:7)?
- (e) What city do they travel to next? What do they do once they get to that city even though they are there for only one day? What does this teach us about the importance of fellowship with other believers?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 21:1-6 and Hebrews 10:24-25. Why is it important to gather together with other believers? What indicates that Paul made this a priority even when he was traveling? What indicates that these believers really loved one another even though they disagreed? Pray that you might recognize the importance of gathering together with one another.

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 21:7-11.** What city do Paul and his companions go to next? In whose house did they stay next? What do you remember about him from Acts 8? How did Phillip end up there (Acts 8:39-40)?
- (b) What do these ladies prophesy about Paul? Why is this significant (Acts 2:17)?
- (c) Who is Agabus and what has he done before in Acts (Acts 11:28)? How is his prophecy different from all the rest? Compare his approach with that of some in the OT (1 Kings 11:29-31; Jeremiah 19:10-11)? What does it tell Paul to do? What does this show you about the nature of prophecy in the NT?
- (d) Read 1 Corinthians 14:29-37. How was a prophet tested in the OT? How is one tested in the NT (36-37)? What is different about NT prophecy?
- (e) What instructions does Paul give about prophecies in 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22? Is it on the same level as God's Word? Explain your answer. How did Paul treat all of these prophecies and warnings? Were they the authoritative Word of God to him?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 21:7-11. What can we learn about prophecy in the New Testament? What is it? Is it the same as God's Word? What must a prophecy be tested by? What should we all desire (1 Corinthians 14:39)? Pray that believers would always make God's Word the only authority for their lives.

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 21:12-16.** What did Paul tell his friends when they pleaded for him to not go? What was Paul's attitude toward life (Romans 14:8-9; Philippians 1:21)?
- (b) Does this mean that believers should desire to die? What was Paul's attitude in Philippians 1:21-24? What was his chief desire?
- (c) How did his friends respond when he said this (Acts 21:14)? Do believers always agree, even regarding God's will?
- (d) Whose house do Paul and his friends stay in? What evidences have you seen of hospitality in this chapter?
- (e) What do Romans 12:13; Hebrews 13:1-2; and 1 Peter 4:9 tell us about the importance of biblical hospitality?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 21:12-16 and 1 Peter 4:9. What is hospitality? How can believers show hospitality to each other? Talk about some ways that you can show hospitality as a family. Ask the Lord to use your hospitality to encourage other believers.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Acts 21:15-20.** How did the believers in Jerusalem receive Paul and his companions? How did the leaders respond to the report that Paul brought about the conversion of the Gentiles in Asia?
- (b) What else must Paul have done that Luke does not mention (Romans 15:25-31)? How should this also have affected the believers in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 9:10-15)?
- (c) What term do the leaders of the Jerusalem church use to describe the number of Jewish believers in the Palestine area? What would this tell us about the impact of evangelism among the Jews?
- (d) What was the attitude of these Jewish believers toward the law? How would this differ from the Gentile believers?
- (e) *Family:* Read Acts 21:15-20 and Luke 15:1-24. What should be the response of believers anytime someone comes to faith? Pray for someone that needs to hear the message of salvation.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

- (a) **Read Acts 21:20-32.** What rumors about Paul had been spread among these Jews? What had Paul already done to show that he was not ignoring the law and forbidden others to follow it (Acts 16:3; Acts 18:18)?
- (b) What were the leaders of the Jerusalem church careful to clarify to Paul before he agreed to undertake what they asked (Acts 21:25)? Why would this be important to Paul and to Gentile believers? What might some have concluded without this clarification?
- (c) What kind of a vow did they ask Paul to take? Why was Paul willing to agree to their request? What should be the Christian's attitude when someone makes requests of us (Matthew 5:40-41)?
- (d) What is one reason Paul might have been willing to follow their request (1 Corinthians 9:19-22 2 Corinthians 12:15)? What was another reason mentioned in Romans 9:1-3? What is a third reason from Ephesians 2:16 and Ephesians 4:1-6?
- (e) **Read Acts 21:33-40.** What was the penalty for any Gentile who entered the temple? Did Paul break this law? Why was the crowd so upset? What are some evidences of God's providence in this passage?
- (f) *Family:* Read Acts 21:22-40. Why was Paul willing to do as they asked? What should be some of our concerns when making decisions? Pray that you will be willing to do whatever the Lord desires for the sake of His kingdom.

DAY 6 – ASK FOR INSIGHT**READ THE PASSAGE**

Think back through what you have learned each day this week. Read Acts 21. What are some things you have learned about following God from this week's lesson? What was Paul's greatest concern? What evidence do you see that Paul put the concerns of others before concerns about himself? How do hospitality and gathering together with other believers put the needs of others ahead of your own needs? Pray for the gathering of believers tomorrow that God's Word might be an encouragement to all who hear.

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Following at Any Cost

"For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.."