



Sermon Notes

Acts 21:7–14 (ESV)

⁷When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day.

⁸On 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.

⁹He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

¹⁰While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

¹¹And 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.' "

¹²When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem.

¹³Then 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."

¹⁴And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

August 31, 2025

(Answer key located on the last page)

Introduction

Sometimes doing what's _____ goes against every warning and every piece of well-meaning _____.

I. Caring Community (Acts 21:7-9)

- When Paul arrived in Ptolemais, the brothers didn't just say hello—they " _____ " him, which means they warmly received him.
- In Caesarea, Paul stayed with _____ the Evangelist, whose house was a ministry center with his four _____ daughters.
- What made this community work was _____ love, not convenience.

Application:

First, identify someone who needs encouragement and speak encouragement about God's work in their life.

Second, think of someone following God's calling who needs practical support, then text them this afternoon asking how you can help.

Third, schedule a meal with someone who needs spiritual fellowship.

II. Clear-eyed Conviction (Acts 21:10-12)

- The prophet _____ didn't just tell Paul what would happen—he _____ it out by tying himself up with Paul's belt.
- God wasn't trying to _____ Paul's direction; He was _____ Paul's heart.

Three-Question Test for Difficult Decisions:

1. Is this warning helping me _____ or trying to make me _____?
2. Am I hearing God's _____ or people's _____?
3. Will this suffering serve _____ purposes or just my comfort?

III. Christ-centered Courage (Acts 21:13-14)

- Christ-centered courage comes from understanding who we are in _____.
- When you've already _____ your life to Christ, what do you have left to lose?
- The driving motivation behind real courage is overwhelming _____ for Jesus Christ.

Application:

1. Remember Your Life Belongs to God.

Daily remind yourself: "My life is God's, and not mine."

2. Practice Courage in Small Things.

Build courage muscles through small acts of obedience. Say yes when God calls.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

What is God asking you to do that you've been putting off because others might not understand or because it might cost you something?

COMMITMENT:

I commit to following God's calling on my life by:

- ☐ Building caring community that supports His purposes
- ☐ Developing clear-eyed conviction to hear His voice above fears
- ☐ Trusting Christ for supernatural courage to obey

Specific action I will take this week:

Next Steps:

- ☐ Identify someone who needs encouragement and speak life into them.
- ☐ Apply the three-question test to a decision you're facing.
- ☐ Pray daily: "God, my life belongs completely to You".

Answer Key

Introduction & Point I:

Right | advice |
Greeted | Philip | prophetess
| sacrificial | callings

Point II:

Agabus | acted | change |
preparing | prepare | quit | voice |
fears | kingdom

Point III:

Jesus | given | love

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins.**

Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

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