

3 Marks of Mature Faith

Acts 21:15-26



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Sermon Notes

Acts 21:15–26 (ESV)

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. **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.

September 7, 2025

(Answer key located on the last page)

I. Christian _____ (Acts 21:15-16)

Key Point: You know what you _____ and you're willing to _____ by it, even when it's hard.

Paul's conviction came from:

- Experiencing _____ personally.
- Seeing God's _____ through ministry.
- Understanding his _____ as an apostle.

Challenge: When was the last time you chose to _____ God when it was inconvenient or costly?

Building Conviction (Daily):

1. Read _____ 29:11.
2. Write one way you'll _____ God's plan.
3. Take one step of _____ even when uncomfortable.

II. Christian _____ (Acts 21:17-21)

Key Point: You care about how your _____ affect other people.

Apply “The Listen-First Rule”: Before responding in any disagreement, repeat back what the other person said until they confirm you understand.

III. Christian _____ (Acts 21:22-26)

Key Point: Voluntarily setting aside personal _____ or _____ when it removes barriers to the gospel.

Two Key Questions:

1. Does this require me to deny biblical _____?
2. Will this help or _____ people's understanding of Jesus?

APPLICATION:

Before you leave today, choose one person you've been in conflict with over preferences (**not biblical truth**). Text, call, or send them an email this week with this message: "I've been thinking about our disagreement. Can we talk about how to move forward in a way that honors God?"

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Which of the three marks (conviction, consideration, compromise) do you struggle with most? Why?

COMMITMENT:

What specific step will you take this week to grow in mature faith?

NEXT STEPS:

- ☐ Choose one person you've been in conflict with over preferences and reach out this week.
- ☐ Daily read Jeremiah 29:11 and write one way you'll trust God's plan.
- ☐ Identify one personal preference you might need to set aside for the gospel.

Answer Key

Point I: Christian Conviction

Believe | stand | Jesus | power |
mission | obey | Jeremiah | trust
| obedience

Point II: Christian

Consideration
actions

Point III: Christian Compromise

Rights | preferences | truth | hurt

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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