

## ENCOUNTER – WARNINGS

JANUARY 12/20

Our reading today takes place in Miletus – now a ruin site in Turkey, but once a thriving Greco Roman city.



This is the ruin of the theatre in Miletus – you can tell how large the city was by the seating offered in the theatre. We were in Miletus a few years ago, once a port city but now through silting is now far from the ocean. This was the site of our reading from Acts 20:15–21:14 – and a puzzling one at that. It all has to do with listening to and obeying the Spirit’s voice.

In 20:22, Paul was compelled by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. He says goodbye to his friends and the churches along the way. But note in 21:4, 11 that others also heard

from the Spirit and warned him not to go to Jerusalem as danger was awaiting him. In verse 13 he was thankful for their Spirit filled warnings, but he pressed on anyway – and we who know the end of the story know that his days were numbered as a result.

Why did the Spirit urge him to go, even though it would cut his life short? Does the Spirit sometimes tell us to do things that seem perplexing or even rash to other Spirit filled people? Does our personal sacrifice sometimes build the Kingdom?

Pastor Leon