**Acts Chapter 21**

Read Acts chapter 21 then answer the following questions.

1. The NIV says in verse 1, “when we had torn ourselves away from them”. Why do you think this phrase more accurately describes what happened?

**This was not an easy parting. Paull deeply loved the Ephesians, and they felt the same about him. He told them in chapter 20 that they would not see him again. That is difficult. When we think of those we love and how difficult it would be to leave them if we believed we would never see again.**

1. How can you explain the actions of the believers in verse 4?

**More than likely the Holy Spirit told them that Paul would face trouble when he arrived in Jerusalem and therefore, they did not want him to go to Jerusalem. And because they did not want him to be in danger, they felt they should warn him against going. The Holy Spirit does not give conflicting info. We sometimes misinterpret the Holy Spirit or we put our spin on it.**

1. Why do you think we are told about Philip’s daughters? Does that speak of anything that is significant to you?

**I believe God wants us to always remember that he has no respect of persons. God said in Joel 2:28 that he would pout out his spirit on all humanity; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Peter reminds us of this in Acts 2:17, “I will pour out my Spirit on all people; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy.” It is a reminder that God’s Spirit is in all of us and we all received messages through the Holy Spirit.**

1. What do you think Agabus did the demonstration with the belt?

**God often had prophets to demonstrate his message to his people. Both Isaiah and Ezekiel at times actually demonstrated the prophesy rather than to just speak the prophesy.**

1. Where in scripture do we hear Agabus prophesying?

**In Acts 11:28 Agabus prophesied that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. This is when the believers in Antioch decided to send relief to the brothers and sisters in Judea. (Acts 11:28-30)**

1. Who pleaded with Paul not to go to Jerusalem in verse 12?

**In verse 12 it was not only the locals in Tyre but it was also those traveling with Paul that pleaded with him not to go to Jerusalem.**

1. Why do you think those described as “we decided to plead with Paul at this time?

**I think those travelling with him had not heard the prophesy or danger awaiting Paul several times now so they became concerned for him. If all of these people are prophesying, saying the same thing there has to be something to these prophecies. They did not want to see Paul hurt or stopped for his ministry.**

1. Can you identify with the people in verse 14?

**There comes a time that we can no longer buck God’s will or ignore his will so we have to give up and say, “The Lord’s will be done.”**

1. How can we discern God's will in the midst of opposition or challenges, as Paul did?

**If you are unsure, you pray for discernment but when you hear others repeating what you think you are hearing that could be confirmation.**

1. Do you see any contradiction in the statement they made to Paul in verse 20?

**To me there is contradiction in believing Jesus is the Messiah and following the law of Moses very seriously, or as one version said they are “zealous for the law”. They believed Jesus was the Messiah but felt it necessary that they continued following the Jewish customs.**

1. Paul’s mission and ministry was misunderstood by some of the Jews based on their tradition. Have you misunderstood someone’s mission or ministry because it went against your tradition?
2. What would Jesus say to the people in verses 21-24?

**Jesus would say that we should be more concerned about what he thinks, about what he says about us, than about what people say about us. We should try to please God rather than pleasing man.**

1. Did Paul take the Greek men with him into the temple? Why or why not?

**Paul did not take the Greek men into the Temple. If he was going to be purified, he knew that he could not enter the Temple until after that period had passed. He may have gone to the Temple, but I feel certain he did not enter the Temple. Paul was a Jew and knew the law very well andhe would not have taken Gentiles into the Temple.**

1. Was Paul guilty of any of the things the people accused him of?

**Paul was not guilty, just like Jesus he was accused by people who were opposed to what he was teaching. They were especially opposed to the Gentiles being welcomed into the kingdom.**

1. Why did Paul address the crowd in Aramaic?

**Paul spoke to the crowd in Aramaic because he wanted to address those who were bringing the charge against him. He spoke their language he did not address the Roman commander.**

1. How does Acts 21 inspire us to stay the course, trusting in God's plan, regardless of the challenges we face?

**Regardless of problems we may face if the Spirit leads us to a situation, it will guide us through the situation. God promised never to leave us alone. If we are followers of Jesus, we are to expect opposition and/or persecution.**