

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell

Topic: Obedience, Opposition, and the Cost of the Gospel

Scriptures: Acts 21:1-22:29

Opening:

Open your time in prayer by thanking God for His guidance, asking for courage to follow Him even when it's difficult, and praying for unity and truth within the church.

Give Background & Context:

In Acts 21–22, Paul continues toward Jerusalem despite repeated warnings. Along the way, he faces pressure from believers, conflict within the church, false accusations, and eventual arrest. Through it all, Paul remains committed to obedience and uses every opportunity to point people to Christ. The passage highlights the cost of following God, the danger of division within the church, and the importance of faithful witness.

- Read Acts 21:1-16
 - What do you notice about the repeated warnings Paul receives as he travels toward Jerusalem? Why do you think the believers urged Paul not to go, and how does Paul respond?
 - What does Paul's statement in verse 13 reveal about his priorities and commitment to Christ?
 - What are some situations where obedience to God may involve discomfort, risk, or misunderstanding?
- Read Acts 21:17-26
 - How do the church leaders initially respond to Paul's report about God's work (v. 17-20)?
 - What problem arises in verses 20-21, and where does it come from?
 - How do the leaders attempt to address the situation, and why does Paul agree to their plan? What does this passage reveal about the power and danger of misinformation or gossip within a church?
 - What are some healthy ways a church can protect unity and pursue truth when misunderstandings arise?
- Read Acts 21:27-22:29
 - What accusations are made against Paul, and how do they compare to the truth?
 - How does Paul respond when given the opportunity to speak (22:1-21)? What stands out about his testimony?
 - Why does the crowd react so strongly when Paul mentions being sent to the Gentiles?
 - What does Paul's willingness to share his story in a hostile environment teach us about boldness in witness?
- Sermon Reflection Questions
 - The sermon highlighted how gossip created major problems within the church. What are some practical ways believers can respond wisely when they hear something questionable?
 - Paul used every circumstance—even arrest—as an opportunity to share the gospel. What might it look like for someone to view difficult situations through that lens?
 - The passage raises the question: "How are you advancing the gospel?" What are some everyday ways believers can participate in God's mission?
 - Paul's life shows a willingness to give up comfort, reputation, and even freedom for Christ. What makes that kind of commitment challenging in today's culture?