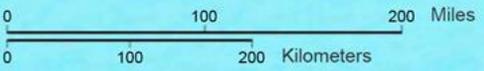




“Homeward Bound”

ACTS 21:1-14

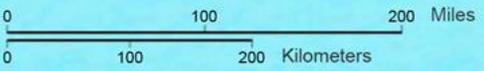


PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY
Acts 19:1 - 21:14

- City
- One of the "Seven Churches of Asia" - Rev. 2-3
- ← Paul's Route

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“Homeward Bound” - Acts 21:1-14

I. Encouragement



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1- God provides through His Body

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2- God provides through the example of Paul

I. Encouragement

- 1- God provides through His Body
- 2- God provides through the example of Paul
- 3- This is for the entire family

I. Encouragement

- 1- God provides through His Body
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II. Hindrances

I. Encouragement

- 1- God provides through His Body
- 2- God provides through the example of Paul
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II. Hindrances

- 1- Warnings come

I. Encouragement

- 1- God provides through His Body
- 2- God provides through the example of Paul
- 3- This is for the entire family

II. Hindrances

- 1- Warnings come
- 2- Conflicts arise

I. Encouragement

- 1- God provides through His Body
- 2- God provides through the example of Paul
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II. Hindrances

- 1- Warnings come
- 2- Conflicts arise
 - 1) In one's own heart & mind

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- 2- Conflicts arise
 - 1) In one's own heart & mind
 - 2) With one's own spiritual family

I. Encouragement

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II. Hindrances

- 1- Warnings come
- 2- Conflicts arise
 - 1) In one's own heart & mind
 - 2) With one's own spiritual family
 - 3) Resolution

Homeward Bound

Acts 21:1-14, Sunday AM, November 13, 2022

Prelude – Scripture: Acts 21:1-14 When we had parted from them and had set sail, we ran a straight course to Cos and the next day to Rhodes and from there to Patara; ² and having found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. ³ When we came in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left, we kept sailing to Syria and landed at Tyre; for there the ship was to unload its cargo. ⁴ After looking up the disciples, we stayed there seven days; and they kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem. ⁵ When our days there were ended, we left and started on our journey, while they all, with wives and children, escorted us until we were out of the city. After kneeling down on the beach and praying, we said farewell to one another. ⁶ Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home again. ⁷ When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and after greeting the brethren, we stayed with them for a day. ⁸ On the next day we left and came to Caesarea, and entering the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, we stayed with him. ⁹ Now this man had four virgin daughters who were prophetesses. ¹⁰ As we were staying there for some days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹ And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands, and said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: 'In this way the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹² When we had heard this, we as well as the local residents began begging him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, "The will of the Lord be done!"

What a meeting in Miletus with the Ephesian elders we've covered the past two weeks! Paul recalled his time ministering with them. I served "the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, ²¹ solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise God for that time, but you must continue this way because there will come those who would stray from the whole purpose of God. They will destroy the faith and witness of many, drawing them away from the Lord. Don't let them! Be alert. Follow my example as I night and day for a period of three years admonished all with tears. Trust the grace of God as it is the means by which you will continue faithfully with such a great charge. Remember the charge, the mission given to Paul which he now passed on to them? His one task was to testify solemnly of the grace of God. Have you witnessed the grace of God? Sing of it!

*Hymn #201: Grace Greater Than Our Sin

Paul finished his charge and then says he must leave, continuing the mission, bound by the Spirit, on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. We move through some more cities, come to Tyre, and met with the disciples of Christ for 7 days, and THEY kept telling Paul through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem. But that mission kept driving Paul forward. Whatever would happen, he said, "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God." The love which tied them together pled for Paul to look for another way so he could continue ministering. Yet the gospel calls us to be dead to self and alive to Christ. Those bonds are even tighter and call us to look past suffering and death to finish the mission and one day be with Christ. Come on, wipe your tears, and continue the mission Jesus handed down to us.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): We'll Work Till Jesus Comes

*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Living Waters

Scripture: John 12:27–50 "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. ²⁸ "Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came out of heaven: "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ So the crowd of people who stood by and heard it were saying that it had thundered; others were saying, "An angel has spoken to Him." ³⁰ Jesus answered and said, "This voice has not come for My sake, but for your sakes. ³¹ "Now judgment is upon this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. ³² "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." ³³ But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die. ³⁴ The crowd then answered Him, "We have heard out of the Law that the Christ is to remain forever; and how can You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?" ³⁵ So Jesus said to them, "For a little while longer the Light is among you. Walk while you have the Light, so that darkness will not overtake you; he who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes. ³⁶ "While you have the Light, believe in the Light, so that you may become sons of Light." These things Jesus spoke, and He went away and hid Himself from them. ³⁷ But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT? AND TO WHOM HAS THE ARM OF THE LORD BEEN REVEALED?" ³⁹ For this reason they could not believe, for Isaiah said again, ⁴⁰ "HE HAS BLINDED THEIR EYES AND HE HARDENED THEIR HEART, SO THAT THEY WOULD NOT SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND PERCEIVE WITH THEIR HEART, AND BE CONVERTED AND I HEAL THEM." ⁴¹ These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him. ⁴² Nevertheless many even of the rulers believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they were not confessing Him, for fear that they would be put out of the synagogue; ⁴³ for they loved the approval of men rather than the approval of God. ⁴⁴ And Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, does not believe in Me but in Him who sent Me. ⁴⁵ "He who sees Me sees the One who sent Me. ⁴⁶ "I have come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness. ⁴⁷ "If anyone hears My sayings and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world. ⁴⁸ "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. ⁴⁹ "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak. ⁵⁰ "I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told Me."

Offering: *Doxology:

And the warnings continue through our passage today. Listen to Agabus warn Paul, and once again, the disciples begged Paul not to go to Jerusalem. ¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." That same Lord Jesus also went to Jerusalem, and in our Scripture reading, we heard that though His soul was troubled, He knew that His mission completed would glorify the Father. "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself." And he continued that mission, obedient even unto death for the joy set before Him. Death is serious, and Paul was not Jesus, but to taste of the living water of which the choir sang is to look right through death to the source of that living water the choir sang about. Seeing this, ¹⁴ And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, "The will of the Lord be done!" As pastor preaches, think of the gaze needed at Christ needed to continue faithfully until death or His return. Sing the perspective of faithful Christians.

*Hymn #538: When I Can Read My Title Clear

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Message: Homeward Bound Acts 21:1-14

*Hymn #460: All the Way My Savior Leads Me Prayer