



# “Lessons from Jerusalem”

Acts 21:15-26

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# I. The Beauty of the Mature Saint – v.16





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2. He has put in time



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    1. What is “Accommodation”?
    2. Paul’s example

## Lessons from Jerusalem

Acts 21:15-26, Sunday AM, November 20, 2022

**Prelude – Scripture: Acts 21:15-26** After these days we got ready and started on our way up to Jerusalem. <sup>16</sup> Some of the disciples from Caesarea also came with us, taking us to Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple of long standing with whom we were to lodge. <sup>17</sup>

After we arrived in Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. <sup>18</sup> And the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. <sup>19</sup> After he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. <sup>20</sup> And when they heard it they began glorifying God; and they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed, and they are all zealous for the Law; <sup>21</sup> and they have been told about you, that you are teaching all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs. <sup>22</sup> “What, then, is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. <sup>23</sup> “Therefore do this that we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; <sup>24</sup> take them and purify yourself along with them, and pay their expenses so that they may shave their heads; and all will know that there is nothing to the things which they have been told about you, but that you yourself also walk orderly, keeping the Law. <sup>25</sup> “But concerning the Gentiles who have believed, we wrote, having decided that they should abstain from meat sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. <sup>26</sup> Then Paul took the men, and the next day, purifying himself along with them, went into the temple giving notice of the completion of the days of purification, until the sacrifice was offered for each one of them.

We’ve sailed from Miletus, leaving the Ephesian elders and the dear believers they represented. We’ve been through numerous cities representing much history and culture, yet Paul valued something different. Instead of tourist pictures, Paul filled his time seeking those who had been impacted and changed by the gospel of Christ—believers, disciples, followers of Christ—from well-known leaders in the church like Philip the evangelist and his daughters, to the men, women, and children faithful to the gospel in Tyre. We have no record of Paul’s personal involvement with the starting of this church in Tyre, but there was a closeness resulting from a personal relationship with Christ—a relationship empowered by the Holy Spirit that blazed forward even in the face of danger as warning after warning came to Paul about what awaited him if he continued to Jerusalem. Should Paul have heeded these warnings? We don’t know, but we DO know that the gospel makes us concerned for more than just our immediate safety, fixing our eyes beyond all the tears and fears associated with all that is dear on this earth. Remember Paul’s words and their response as the believer’s parted from Caesarea as we closed last week? Paul said, “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.” <sup>14</sup> And since he would not be persuaded, we fell silent, remarking, “The will of the Lord be done!” In order for you to welcome God’s will this way, God Himself must eclipse all. Church, Behold your God so you can say with our hymnwriter, “Thus all my toilsome way along I sing aloud His praises, that men may hear the grateful song My voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in the Lord, my heart! Both soul and body bear your part to God all praise and glory!”

### \*Hymn #6: Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

What a community of saints—our group of 9 or so joined today by some from Caesarea taking us to “Mnason of Cyprus, a disciple of long standing with whom we were to lodge.” To be a disciple of long standing implies an unwavering faith that speaks of a gaze, a hope, and a response. Put these together, and you have godly character proving the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. THIS was the gaze that brought Paul to Jerusalem—to care for the needs of the saints in their time of need, and, in spite of the coming danger, notice the fellowship of the Spirit as these saints received them gladly. Sing these examples of day by day, moment by moment abiding in Christ.

### \*Hymn #351: Moment by Moment \*Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: The Lord is My Light (I Will Rejoice) Scripture: 2 Timothy 2:8–26

Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, <sup>9</sup> for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. <sup>10</sup> For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. <sup>11</sup> It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; <sup>12</sup> if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; <sup>13</sup> if we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself. <sup>14</sup> Remind them of these things, and solemnly charge them in the presence of God not to wrangle about words, which is useless and leads to the ruin of the hearers. <sup>15</sup> Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. <sup>16</sup> But avoid worldly and empty chatter, for it will lead to further ungodliness, <sup>17</sup> and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, <sup>18</sup> men who have gone astray from the truth saying that the resurrection has already taken place, and they upset the faith of some. <sup>19</sup> Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.” <sup>20</sup> Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor. <sup>21</sup> Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work. <sup>22</sup> Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. <sup>23</sup> But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels. <sup>24</sup> The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, <sup>25</sup> with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, <sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

**Offering: \*Doxology:** And what do they talk about after they greet one another? God’s work in and through them. But they were not merely co-laborers focusing on their work, they were co-worshippers! <sup>19</sup> After he had greeted them, he began to relate one by one the things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. <sup>20</sup> And when they heard it they began glorifying God; They glorified God for His work in people outside their world—people who were not like them. How far do you look to see the work of God? Are you involved in an ever-growing circle of souls—willing to invest in the messy, time-consuming work of calling others to see the goodness of God, so they too, can praise Him? THIS is what you were saved to do!

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): May the Peoples Praise You

**You may be seated.** But like we are all too familiar with in this broken world, we can go from gazing at the work of God and praising Him to tearing apart His work and people so quickly. Today, we are reminded at just how deep this divide is between the believing Jews and Gentiles. They BOTH want to worship and serve God, but standing for the gospel leads to focusing in the wrong place. Listen as Pastor Jahn preaches to the subtlety of living wrong theology—seeing God incompletely and therefore misrepresenting Him. Though well-intentioned, it comes from NOT handling accurately the word of truth and results in gangrenous teaching spreading. And yet, even as we must stand against those leading people from the truth, and as such, have been held captive by the devil to do his will, we must have a way back for them as God may grant them repentance. And so, the Jewish believers have a plan to bring the two sides together and Paul submits to it, leaving us an example of humbly caring for fellowship with God and His intent rather than just fellowship with “believers” who think like us. The more we glimpse God’s intent for His people and how easily we lose His perspective and end up misrepresenting Him and tearing apart His kingdom, the more we must pray for true fellowship with God. Pray this powerful song as we prepare to sit under God’s Word.

### \*Hymn (Powerpoint): Speak, O Lord

**Message: Lessons from Jerusalem Bound Acts 21:15-26 \*Hymn #378: Only One Life Prayer**