

August 6, 2023
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
Acts: Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey // S3E10 There Was No Quit in Paul
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Acts 21:10-14

¹⁰ After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.¹¹ Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"¹² When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.¹³ Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."¹⁴ When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."

Things we learned along the way:

1. God speaks in community, and we are responsible for our own choices.
2. Paul never quit on a calling.

1. **God speaks in community: Vs. 10** *After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.*
 - i. Paul's path was propelled by **Prayer, Prophets, Patriarchs and People**.
 - ii. Paul makes a decision contrary to his community.
 1. **Vs. 13** *Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."¹⁴ When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "**The Lord's will be done.**"*
2. **Paul never quit on a calling: Vs. 12** *When we (Luke) heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.¹³ Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."*
 - i. Paul has had plenty of good and valid reasons to abandon his mission to the gentiles.
 - ii. By the time Paul had completed his 3rd missionary journey, he had exposed the majority of the Near East to Christianity.

Few people experience the results of long devotion in a single direction.

Practical Takeaways:

1. Surround yourself with a discerning community.
2. Take measure faith, hope, and perseverance before abandoning a calling.

Questions for small groups:

1. Pastor Adam said that God speaks in community. Do you hear God in community? If so, give an example of when.
2. The prophet Agabus claimed to have heard directly from the Holy Spirit when warning Paul not to go to Jerusalem. Do you hear directly from the Holy Spirit? If so, how?
3. Paul made a decision to go to Jerusalem, even after his community warned him not to go. Who was right, the community or Paul?
4. Pastor Adam said, "Few people experience the results of long devotion in a single direction." What do you think that means?
5. Paul never quit on a calling. What are the keys to long suffering and perseverance?