

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of October 12, 2014

This Week's Focus: Paul's journey to Jerusalem.

This Week's Text: Acts 21:1-26

"A truly emancipated spirit such as Paul's is not in bondage to its own emancipation" **F. F. Bruce**

For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**

Related Texts: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Acts 9:16, 19:21, 20:16, 22; Numbers 6:13-16

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What in the text/sermon was most illuminating or helpful? Why?
- Why do you think Luke records for us the many hardships Paul is about to face? What does it say about God? What does this say about us? What does it reveal to us about missions?
- Read verses 1-16 and discuss what we learn about Christian fellowship. What are the ways it is expressed and carried out? Share examples of how Christians, both those you know and those you don't, have provided support and help for you?
- Read Romans 12:13, 1 Peter 4:9-10, Hebrews 13: 2, Leviticus 19:33-34, and Acts 16:15. What do these verses teach us about the importance and expression of hospitality among Christians?
- What is the significance of Paul, Philip and his children all together? Reference Acts 6:1-7 and 7:54-8:1.

- Why was Paul heading to Jerusalem? How can we make sense of Paul's conviction that God wants him to go to Jerusalem while those around him are trying to stop him?
- What do Paul and the others decide to do? Why do you think they made these decisions?
- What are the principles in our narrative that we can apply to our life in discerning the will of God?
- When Paul arrived in Jerusalem he shared with James and the other Elders what God was doing among the Gentiles.
 - Is it difficult at times to hear how great things are going with others?
 - How do you combat against your negative feelings?
- Read verses 20b-21 and discuss the real problem in the Jerusalem Church.
- What is the significance of Paul and James reaffirming the decision of the Church Council in Acts 15?
- What are some of the ways Christ has fulfilled the ceremonial laws and rituals?
- In Galatians 5:1-6 Paul is arguing against justification (making one right before God) by the law by showing that no one can work to be justified before God. How do Jews and Greeks become justified? What are the ways that we try to justify ourselves before God?
- Paul agrees to the request of James and pays for all 4 men's haircuts. (Most likely a Nazirite Vow, reference Numbers 6.) What does that say about Paul and James? Read 1 Corinthians 9:19-23 and discuss the freedoms and boundaries of engaging culture for the cause of the gospel.
- What are cultural expressions that we must reject? Which expressions can we receive? Which should we redeem?
- Imagine Paul, knowing that Jesus is the true Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, bringing a blameless, sacrificial lamb to the temple to be sacrificed. Reference Ephesians 5:2, Hebrews 10:4-12, John 1:29, and 1 Corinthians 5:7b. What do you think he was thinking and feeling?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus is the sacrificial lamb that takes away sins once and for all time!
- Jesus is the sacrificial lamb that purifies us!
- True gospel community demonstrates itself in loving hospitality toward others because God's loving hospitality toward us makes us His beloved children!

Next Week's Text: Acts 21:27-22:29