



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 38:
"Giving and Receiving Advice"
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 21:1-14 and selected passages

1. Why did Luke and the disciples in Tyre plead for Paul not to go to Jerusalem (Acts 21:4)? If you were in their situation, would you have done the same thing? If Paul knew through the Spirit (Acts 19:21; 20:23; cf. 23:11) that he must go to Jerusalem, how could these men urge him not to go "through the Spirit?"

2. How can you tell if your advice to someone is motivated by your desire to protect the person as opposed to your desire to see them carry out God's purposes in the world? Can these two motivations ever agree (Acts 9:23-25; 2 Corinthians 11:32; Acts 19:8-9, 29-30)? Ultimately, how should you respond (Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 62:5-8)?

3. Does Agabus' prophecy seem strange (Acts 21:10-11)? The Holy Spirit clearly gave Agabus this message. How could Luke and the disciples in Caesarea still urge Paul not to go (Acts 21:12)?! Who would you want to protect in similar a situation (children, a spouse, a friend)? Would you be able to release them to the Lord?

4. If you were Paul, how would you have evaluated the pleadings/advice from these friends (cf. Proverbs 12:15; 13:10; 15:22)? How do you discern whether or not counsel is man-centered or God-centered (1 Samuel 24:4-7; Job 2:9; 42:7; Matthew 16-23)?

5. How did Paul effectively affirm the emotions of his friends, while still remaining faithful to the task that God had called Him to carry out (*Acts 21:13*)? How did Paul model the life of discipleship to which Jesus calls His followers (*Matthew 10:39; 19:29*)?

6. Paul knew that he would face trials if he continued on to Jerusalem (*Acts 20:23*), yet he would not be dissuaded from the task at hand (*Acts 21:14*). Have you tried to avoid trials, even when the Lord says "go" (*Jonah 1:2-3*)? What can we learn from Paul's example here?

7. If you are a follower of Jesus Christ, do you consider your life as nothing (*Acts 20:24*)? What holds you back from more fully embracing God's cause, which is greater than ourselves? Can you say with integrity that you want His will to be done (*Luke 9:51; 22:42*)?

Memory Verse:

"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.'"

(Acts 21:13, NASB)