



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 39:
“Must I Care What People Think?”
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 21:15-26 and selected passages

1. Notice the deep relationships that Paul had established during his ministry throughout Asia Minor (*Acts 21:15-17*)? What does this tell you about the importance of relationships (*Proverbs 15:22*) as well as the impact of Paul’s ministry among these people (*2 Thessalonians 2:8*)?

2. What about you? Do you have a similar network of relationships? Who are the people in your life who support and admonish you just as Paul’s friends did for him? Why are these relationships essential to us and our survival (*Acts 2:42; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25*)?

3. Why is it significant that Paul addressed James (*James 1:1*) and the other Jewish elders in the Jerusalem church (*Acts 21:18*)? What did Paul report to them (*Acts 21:19; cf. 14:27; 15:4*)? How was this report received (*Acts 21:20*)?

4. Look back at *Acts 15* (especially verses 1-2 and 10-12) for some background on the section that follows here in chapter 21. What was the misunderstanding of many Jewish Christians (*Acts 21:20-21*)? Why might they have thought this (*Acts 15:1, 19; Galatians 5:6*)?

5. Why did the church leaders in Jerusalem recommend that Paul help these four men fulfill their vows (*Acts 21:23-24; Numbers 6:2-5; Acts 18:18*)? What were they afraid would happen to Paul (cf. *Acts 21:27-28*)? How would his facilitation of these men's vows have helped him?

6. Why did the leaders in Jerusalem choose these three stipulations for Gentile Christians to follow (*Acts 21:25; cf. 15:19-20, 29*)? Should we abide by these stipulations today? Why or why not (*1 Corinthians 10:28; Revelation 2:14; Genesis 9:4; Deuteronomy 12:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:3*)?

7. Paul had "died to the law" through faith in Christ (*Romans 7:6*). How did his purification of himself (*Acts 21:26*) demonstrate his willingness to do whatever he could to win others for Jesus Christ (*1 Corinthians 9:19-23*)? What do you need to do differently in order to do the same?

Memory Verse:

"When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: 'You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law.'"

(Acts 21:20, NIV)