

For the Name

Acts 21.1-26

Focus: on calling us to follow Paul's example of sacrificial faithfulness and humility for the unity of the church and the spread of the gospel.



Paul's Third Missionary Journey

here are a couple of links to helpful articles by Pastor Bob Deffinbaugh to aid you in your preparation:

<https://bible.org/seriespage/28-appraising-advice-and-doing-will-god-acts-211-16>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/tempest-temple-acts-2117-2229>

Discussion:

- Read Acts 21.1-26. What does this passage reveal about the Apostle Paul's heart? How does this challenge or encourage you? (this could take up the lion's share of your discussion!)
- How does Paul's example teach us about willingness to suffer for Christ? What makes Paul's willingness to suffer for Christ's sake so challenging to us today? how would his example challenge modern ideas that Christians ought not suffer if they are obeying God?
- how do you make sense out of the seemingly contrary leading of the Spirit in 20.22 and 21.4? (consider 23.11 and 21.14 in the discussion)
- What principle can you draw out of Paul's willingness to follow the elders' instruction and participate in this Jewish vow in v. 26? Why do you think he did that rather than insist on his freedom from the law, like he did in Gal. 5.1-6?
- What freedoms or rights might we be called to lay down for the unity of the body?
- Close with sharing and prayer on how Paul's example should shape your prayers, attitudes and actions!

2014-2015 Acts Focus

To advance our church in our knowledge and experience of the Spirit in such a way that we will increasingly embrace His ministry in and through us, especially in witness.

