

## FOLLOWING GOD'S WILL WHEN...

Acts 21, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020

- **...Other Christians Tell You: "Don't Do It".**

... <sup>4</sup> *We sought out the disciples there and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.* <sup>5</sup> *When it was time to leave, we left and continued on our way. All of them, including wives and children, accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray.* <sup>6</sup> *After saying goodbye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home.* Acts 21:1-6

- **...Christian Friends Tell You: "Don't Do It".**

<sup>8</sup> *Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven.* <sup>9</sup> *He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.* <sup>10</sup> *After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.* <sup>11</sup> *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 Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"* <sup>12</sup> *When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.* <sup>13</sup> *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."* <sup>14</sup> *When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."* Acts 21:7-16

- **...Asked To Go The Extra Mile.**

<sup>20</sup> *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.* <sup>21</sup> *They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs.* <sup>22</sup> *What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come,* <sup>23</sup> *so do what we tell you. There are four men with us who have made a vow.* <sup>24</sup> *Take these men, join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law.*

Acts 21:20-26

- **...Asked To Go The Extra Mile. (continued)**

v22 *Nazarite vow. i.e. dedicated, thankfulness to God, 30 days long, cut hair, offer temple*

... *to win as many as possible.* 1 Corinthians 9:19-23

Jesus: *If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.* Mat 5:41

- **...We Are Falsely Accused & Misunderstood.**

<sup>27</sup> *When the seven days were nearly over, some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him,* <sup>28</sup> *shouting, "Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place."* <sup>29</sup> *(They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)*

Acts 21:27-29

- **...We Are Arrested and Detained.**

<sup>30</sup> *The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.* <sup>31</sup> *While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander (Claudius) of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.* <sup>32</sup> *He at once took some officers and soldiers and ran down to the crowd. When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.* <sup>33</sup> *The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains.* *Then he asked who he was and what he had done.* <sup>34</sup> *Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks.* <sup>35</sup> *When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers.* <sup>36</sup> *The crowd that followed kept shouting, "Get rid of him!"*

Acts 21:30-36