

Following God's Will Acts 21:1-16

Keywords and Phrases*

Disciples (vv. 4, 16)

Evangelist (v. 8)

Jerusalem (vv. 11, 12, 13)

Lord (vv. 13, 14)

Prophesied (v. 21)

Spirit (vv. 4, 11)

*Keywords may vary depending on Bible translation

Critical Thinking Questions

1. What is the importance of Luke mentioning that Philip has four daughters who prophesied in Acts 21:9 (see Acts 2:17; Joel 2:28)?
2. On initial observation, the guidance provided by the Spirit to the disciples in Acts 21:4 seems to conflict with the direction Paul received from the Spirit in Acts 20:22. How can both directives be true?
3. Considering the historical context of the first century, what is Luke communicating about women in the Luke-Acts narrative?
4. What is the importance of Luke mentioning to his audience that "disciples" can be found in multiple cities? (Acts 21:4, 15 see also Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15)?

Analyzing the Scripture

Paul & Luke

- Depart from Miletus & Journey towards Jerusalem.
 - Farewell to the elders in Miletus (v. 1).
 - Stop at Cos, Rhodes, Patara, Tyre (vv. 1-3).
 - Meet with the disciples at Tyre (v. 4).
- traveled to Ptolemais (v. 7).
 - stayed with the brothers for one day (vv. 7-8).
- traveled to Caesarea and visited Philip (v. 8).
- lodged with Mnason of Cyprus (v. 16).

Disciples at Tyre

- tell Paul not to go to Jerusalem (v. 4).
- joined Paul and Luke in prayer, along with their wives and children (v. 5).

The daughters of Philip

- prophesied (v. 9).

Agabus

- prophesied Paul would be bound in Jerusalem by the Jews (v. 11).
 - the people who heard Agabus urged Paul not to go to Jerusalem (v. 12).

"And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, 'Let the will of the Lord be done.'"

(Acts 21:14 ESV)

Reflection Question

How can we remain faithful to God's will in our lives when we are faced with opposition or personal sacrifice?