

## Paul's Journey to Jerusalem Acts 20:36-21:16

Map

### The Gift of Christian Friendship (20:36-21:16)

<sup>36</sup>And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup>And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, <sup>38</sup>being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

**21** And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. <sup>2</sup>And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. <sup>3</sup>When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. <sup>4</sup>And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed <sup>6</sup>and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

<sup>7</sup>When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. <sup>8</sup>On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. <sup>9</sup>He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. <sup>10</sup>While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup>And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" <sup>12</sup>When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup>Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." <sup>14</sup>And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

<sup>15</sup>After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. <sup>16</sup>And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge.

### *The Need for Christian Friendship*

To need and to want deep spiritual friendships is not a sign of spiritual immaturity, but of maturity. It's not a sign of weakness, but a sign of health. – Tim Keller

Adam was not lonely because he was imperfect, but because he was perfect. The ache for friends is the one ache that's not the result of sin.... God made us in such a way that we couldn't even enjoy paradise without friends ... human friends.... Adam had a perfect "quiet time" everyday, for twenty-four hours a day. Yet, he needed friends.... If you are lonely, you aren't dysfunctional, you're fine. You're lonely because you're not a tree. You're lonely because you're not a machine. You're lonely because you're built this way.... Now I have to be careful about this because one of the reasons you may not have friends is because of sin, but the passion for it, the need for it, the sense of lack of it, is not wrong at all.

Friends, let yourself need people.... Here's the trouble. When you're in trouble, it's too late. You know, very few people walk around saying, "Ah, I love air. Ah. Air! Air! What good is my brain without air? What good would my life be without air?.... You only sound that way when you're under water! Then you

start to say, “Wow. Air!” And you don’t walk around saying, “I need friends” until you emotionally and personally go *under*, and then it’s too late – if you don’t already have them. You need spiritual friendships.

### *How Christian Friendship Is Established*

### *How Christian Friendship Is Expressed*

1. Practicing hospitality
2. Showing affection
3. Praying together
4. Discussing important decisions

## The Cost of Christian Discipleship (20:36-21:16)

### *Perspectives on Paul’s Decision*

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### *Principles for Us to Apply*

1. Love people, but love Jesus more.
2. Value input, but follow God’s will.
3. Remember that there’s something worse than dying: not living.
4. Remember that when you follow Jesus down the Calvary road, you’re not alone and you won’t regret it.
5. Remember that following Jesus costly, but not following Jesus is more costly.