

Episode: Acts Series No. 17

Narrators: Paul, Luke

Primary Scriptures: Acts 21-28

Story Summary: Paul's trip to Jerusalem, his imprisonment and trials, trip to Rome

Location: Roman Empire; Jerusalem, Caesarea, Malta

Time: 30 AD Jesus crucified and resurrected; Pentecost; Holy Spirit arrives

46 AD First Missionary Journey starts

48 – 51 AD Second Missionary Journey

52-57 AD Third Missionary Journey

57-59 AD Paul arrested in Jerusalem; Paul imprisoned in Caesarea

59-62 AD Paul sent to Rome and imprisoned for two years

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Acts 22:1; 24:25; 25:12; 26:28-29, 32; 27:23-24; 28:15-16, 23; 28:28-31

In his infinite wisdom, God had a plan in mind for Paul that no human could have envisioned. When Jesus first called Paul, he said Paul would proclaim the name of Jesus to the Gentiles and their kings. It was now time for Paul to fulfill that prophecy.

By the time of his final trip to Jerusalem, Paul had been a Christian for about twenty-five years. Even after that long period away from practicing Judaism, he still qualified to go into the Temple area and follow certain Jewish rituals. Apparently, he never gave up his desire to preach to the Jews about Jesus.

After a clash with the Jews, Paul was imprisoned by the Romans in Jerusalem, then transferred to Caesarea. He was kept in Caesarea for about two years before he was sent to Rome, a trip full of adventure and danger.

Paul was under arrest in Rome for about another two years. The Bible never says when Paul wrote his letters to the Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians, but while some scholars believe Paul may have written one or more of those while imprisoned in Caesarea, others believe he wrote them in Rome.

Acts ends rather abruptly. When you read the last two verses of the book, pay attention to whether you perceive Paul was still in jail or if he had been released. Try to imagine why Luke ended *Acts* so abruptly when he had not been abrupt throughout the rest of the book.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Paul go to Jerusalem after his Third Missionary Journey?
 2. Why did the Romans take Paul from Jerusalem to Caesarea?
 3. How long was Paul imprisoned at Caesarea? Who can be inferred to have aided Paul during his imprisonment?
 4. Who went to Rome with Paul on his first imprisonment?
 5. At least how long was Paul imprisoned in Rome the first time?
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1. to deliver the relief funds he had gathered, and possibly to fulfill a vow. 2 to save his life because the Jews wanted to kill him. 3. Two years. Philip and his family. 4. Luke. 5. Two years.

Application Questions:

1. Paul went to Jerusalem even though Agabus prophesied danger. Have you ever been so committed to God that you obeyed despite the possibility of danger? What happened? Did God prove faithful? Would you do it again?
2. Paul wisely appealed to his Roman citizenship *and* his Jewish heritage to manipulate the system in order to gain an audience before the highest authorities. What are some systems in which you currently can use your position for the cause of Christ?
3. Paul took the occasion while in custody in Rome to spread the Gospel. How can you look for the opportunity to share the Gospel in difficult circumstances?

Application Questions for Teens:

1. Paul went to Jerusalem even though Agabus prophesied danger. Have you ever been so committed to God that you obeyed despite the possibility of danger? What happened? Did God prove faithful? Would you do it again?
2. Paul's guard took Paul's advice when the ship was about to capsize. How did Paul get that much moral authority? How can you increase your moral authority among your friends?
3. Paul took the occasion while in custody in Rome to spread the Gospel. How can you look for the opportunity to share the Gospel in difficult circumstances?