

ACTS

Bible Study

2018-2019



Lesson: 26
Acts 21: 17-40

Read this week's scripture and answer the questions below. As you read, consider how these verses fit into what you are seeing or experiencing today. Prepare to share with your small group anything that jumped out at you, confused you, encouraged you, challenged or convicted you.

Wednesday

Before reading, ask for insight into this week's passage. Read verses 17-40. We see confusion surrounding Paul and the Gospel. Do we see this in our day? Pray that the gospel would be heard and seen clearly by a weary world.

Thursday

Read verses 17-20. Notice something important here. Though Gentiles hear the Gospel through Paul, it's God who gets the Glory. When we are successful, who gets the Glory? Let your answer to this question lead you to prayer today.

Friday

Read verses 20-22. Here is trouble. New believers clash with old customs. It would seem that from the early church until now this has been a persistent problem. Let us pray for wisdom and courage to be (not just go to) the church we are called to be.

Saturday

Spend time with verses 23-26. Turn to Romans 14:4-6. We can see in these passages that Paul is ok with the Jews observing tradition so long as it does not result in a sense of superiority. Let this remind us that Grace is exactly what it claims to be, a free gift, not earned by religious activity. Let that thought lead to prayer and worship today.

Sunday

Take in verse 27-30. Paul is in trouble again. This passage echoes Stephen's execution (Acts 6:13), which Paul oversaw. Now Paul faces an angry crowd. Jesus told his followers to count the cost of discipleship. Here, yet again, we see Paul paying a price. Is our discipleship costly? Have we, are we willing to sacrifice comfort, reputation, security for the sake of the gospel? Let these thoughts lead you to prayer.

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Monday

Read verses 31-36. Paul is taken into Roman custody as the crowd shouts, “away with him.” Here again, there are echoes of Stephen’s execution and Jesus’s crucifixion. Here we see a picture of what it truly means to follow Jesus. This is a hard truth, but it comes with the assurance the Christ has gone before us and goes with us. Let this thought lead you to prayer today.

Tuesday

Read and consider verses 37-40. Paul has just barely escaped and angry mob. He speaks Greek to assure the Romans that he is a citizen, not an assassin. He then makes an amazing request: to address the crowd that just tried to kill him. Paul sees one thing in this tumultuous moment: the opportunity to preach the gospel. Is there an opportunity clothed in opposition in our present circumstances? Take these thoughts to the Lord in prayer today.

Notes/Prayer Request
