

The Acts of the Spirit
ORCHESTRATING OPPOSITION

ACTS 21:1-16

“THE PROPHECY”

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

SUMMARY

Pastor Jeff reminded us, "People don't go through hell just for the hell of it." However, people will go through sacrifice and suffering for the sake of a higher calling. Paul did, and we will also if we take seriously the call to walk the way of Jesus for the sake of those wandering without him. That is because fulfilling our calling is more important than reaching our potential- as Christians, we follow Jesus no matter the destination.

In the text, the Holy Spirit has made it plain to Paul and the church community that he will be arrested when he returns to Jerusalem. The community sees this as a warning and tries to dissuade Paul; they can't imagine a world without him in it. But Paul, who knows His suffering savior, understands this is the next step in fulfilling his calling. He understood that everyone's calling is always on the other side of suffering.

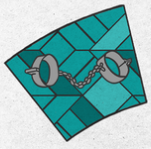
Despite all of this, Paul is not deterred. He is convinced of Jesus's supreme worthiness and that He is with him in the midst of it.

Pastor Jeff reminded us that we are not at Faith Church to be comfy and cozy. Instead, we are here with a purpose—to fulfill the calling of knowing Jesus and making him known in all our varied and unique ways. To do that, we must embrace the fact that we will suffer as Jesus did, but not alone. Jesus is with us as we walk in his footsteps of making him known.

Practically, he challenged us to put this into practice by

- Listen to God: Develop the sensitivity of listening to God's calling through his Word and Prayer so we can pursue our calling.
- Try: Take one baby step towards Serving in meaningful areas in God's kingdom.
- Commune: Encourage and be Encouraged by God's people in a local church to stay on the path of fulfilling our calling.

This is hard work, but Jesus is supremely worthy of it. Let's digest this truth together as we discuss Acts 21:7-16.



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DISCUSSION

- Pastor Jeff said people go through hell for the hell of it. Then why do you people sometimes willingly choose rugged paths full of pain and suffering?
- It is an unrefusable truth that what you truly want (that is good for you) is always on the other side of sacrifice. Why is that theme true in almost every area of life?
- Pastor Jeff said it is more important (and satisfying) for you to fulfill your calling than your potential. Why do you think it is true?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

Extract the Truth

Read the text: Acts 21:7-16

- What jumps out to you from the text?

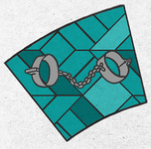
Paul also knew fulfilling his calling was more important (and satisfying) than anything he could do.

- What was his calling, and why would it be more critical and satisfying than anything else that could happen in life?

Pastor Jeff said Paul and the people both understood what the spirit had made plain: Paul was going to be imprisoned, but the difference was that Paul saw it as an opportunity to fulfill his calling, and the people saw it as the end of it:

Paul knew:

- Jesus was God (Supreme Source of Life)
- Paul had life in Jesus, and Jesus was with him.
- People Needed Life in Jesus
- Jesus sacrificed himself for people so that Paul could do the same.
- Which of the following do you think the church struggled with the most, which caused them to try to dissuade Paul?



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Experience Transformation

- God has given us the joyful opportunity to fulfill the calling we were made to do if we have the courage to face the challenges that stand in our way. If we can overcome our fear and aversion to adversity, we have the privilege of following Paul's example as he follows Christ.
- How do you feel about God's calling on your life, and what is in the way of you fulfilling it?

Pastor Jeff said to better discern and pursue our calling, we must:

- Listen to God: Develop the sensitivity of listening to God's voice in his Word and Prayer.
- Try: Take one baby step towards serving in meaningful areas in God's kingdom and let God grow it.
- Commune: Living vulnerable in the community so we can encourage and be encouraged by God's people.
 - Which of these stands out to you as the next step you should take and why?
 - What can you do this week to put this into action in the power of the Holy Spirit?

**PREPARE FOR
NEXT WEEK:**

Read Isaiah 55

