

The Heart of the Matter

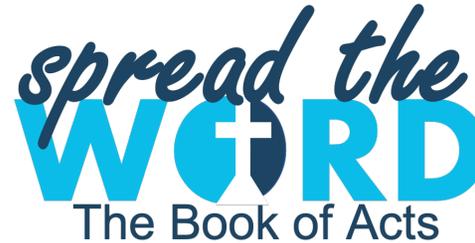
12. In your opinion did Paul make the right decision to go to Jerusalem, even though godly people through the Spirit urged him not to go?

13. When have you made decisions against the wishes of people you admired and trusted? What happened? In retrospect were your decisions wise ones? How so?

14. How do you decide when you should bend for the sake of others and when you should stand for your principles?

15. What group is the most critical of the church today? How might the church provoke this group? What could be done to lessen these animosities?

Praises and Prayer Requests:



Life Group Study Guide

The Courage of Conviction Acts 21:1-36 For the Week of July 28, 2019

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. What place did your parents have to drag you to because you were scared to go there: Circus? Dentist? Barber? Elsewhere?
3. What are some amazing ways that you have seen other people grow in their faith in following Christ?

Digging Deeper

4. In verses 4 and 10-13 how was Paul interpreting these warnings differently than his friends do? (20:22-23) Why doesn't he listen to his friends' advice?

5. What else do we know about Agabus that gives more credence to his prophecy? (11:27-29) Does Paul strike you as courageous or foolish given the ominous nature of the warning he received? Why?

6. From what we have studied so far, why is Paul so intent on going to Jerusalem? What seems to be his greatest motivations? Are his motivations well founded?

7. What pressures do James and the elders in Jerusalem face when Paul arrives there? In verses 21-26 how would Paul's teaching cause problems for some of the overzealous Jews in Jerusalem?

8. The issues surrounding the inclusion of the Gentiles into the church was supposedly settled six years earlier (Acts 15). Why do these same tensions still plague the Jerusalem church?

9. How would James' suggestion to Paul solve the problem for both of them (15:19-21)? Why was it important to remind the Gentile believers on how to walk with Christ in verse 25? (15:20)

10. Why would the Asian Jews be especially upset when they saw Paul (19:8-10)? Gentiles were forbidden from entering the temple. How would the accusation of verse 28 fuel the suspicions of James in verse 21?

11. Compare the reaction against Paul in verses 30-31 with the reaction against Stephen in Acts 6:11-13 20 years earlier. What does this reveal about Christian-Jewish relationships in Jerusalem during this period?