

Sermon Handout

Bound to Christ

Acts 21:1-14

- I. **The Voyage from Miletus to Caesarea** vv. 1-8a
 - a. They “tore themselves away” from the Ephesian elders v. 1
 - b. To Cos in the Dodecanese Islands (south to the corner of Asia Minor)
 - c. To the City of Rhodes in the eastern Dodecanese
 - d. To Patara on the mainland of Asia Minor
 - e. To Phoenicia on a large ocean-going merchant ship
 - i. They land at Tyre in Phoenicia (Syria) – 5 day voyage, 400 mi.
 - ii. Spend 7 days in Tyre with the church there
 - Founded by those who fled after Stephen’s death 11:19
 - The warning again *cf.* 20:23 (*see* 19:21; 20:22; 16:6-7)
 - Prayed with the entire congregation before leaving
 - f. Then south to Caesarea via Ptolemais (1 day stop)

- II. **Events in Caesarea** vv. 8b-14 (a stay of 10 days or 2 weeks)
 - a. The church founded in Cornelius’ house
 - b. Philip living there *see* 6:5; 8:5, 26, 40
 - May have been there in Ch 10 - stayed 20 years
 - c. Prophets and the prophecy vv. 9-11
 - i. Philip’s four daughters v. 9
 - ii. Agabus from Jerusalem vv. 10-11 *cf.* 11:27-28
 - iii. Acts like an OT prophet *cf.* I Kg 11:29-28; Ez 4:1-6; Is 20:2-5
 - d. The response of the church (local & Paul’s companions) v. 12
 - e. Paul’s reply: Why try to “soften my will?” I will go! v. 13
 - “I am willing both to be bound and to die.”
 - f. The disciples relent: “God’s will be done” v. 14 *cf.* Lk 22:42

- III. **Paul & Jesus – Parallel Tracks**
 - a. Jesus prophesied of his own suffering Mk 9:31; 10:32-34
 - b. Jesus “set his face toward Jerusalem” Lk 9:51-62
 - c. Men intend evil; God plans good Act 2:22-24 *cf.* Gen 50:20

Like Jesus and like Paul, we must stay the course, irrespective of anticipated or realized difficulty and suffering. **We must be focused on the greatness of his kingdom and its prosperity.**