

"The Third Missionary Journey"

Part 15

Acts 18:23-21:26

Introduction: Last week in our study we followed as Paul and his company came to Tyre.

Notice Acts 21:1-3

It was at Tyre that they found fellow believers and they stayed with them for seven days. During the time they spent with them the Holy Spirit revealed to them that Paul should not go to Jerusalem because of the affliction that he would face.

Notice Acts 21:4

Last week we considered this verse along with what Paul said to the elders from Ephesus.

Acts 20:22-24

²² *And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:*

²³ *Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.*

²⁴ *But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.*

Paul was bound in the Spirit to go to Jerusalem and the believers at Tyre warned Paul through the Spirit not to go. We considered how Paul was being led to go and these people were permitted to know by the Spirit what awaited Paul. Possibly they were just concerned for him and wanted to do all they could to protect him. But there is another thought that I had not considered until someone suggested it last week.

Matthew 16:21-23

²¹ From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

²² Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

²³ But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Jesus was going to Jerusalem and made it clear that He would suffer many things. It was then that Peter stepped up and tried to stop Jesus. Jesus' answer to Peter reveals that it was Satan working through Peter. So, getting back to Acts, it was possibly the same situation with Paul. Satan wanted to keep Jesus from providing salvation for mankind. In Paul's situation Satan would not have wanted him to go to Jerusalem because this would be the gateway to carry the Gospel to Rome. Satan would not want to Gospel to get into Rome because from there it would travel across the globe and he knew it. Therefore, it is very possible that the believers at Tyre were being used by Satan in an attempt to stop the advancement of the Gospel. Keep in mind Paul's word in Philippians.

Philippians 1:12-14

¹² But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

¹³ So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

¹⁴ And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

➤ On to Jerusalem

Notice Acts 21:6-8

When they came to Caesarea, they met up with Philip, the evangelist who was one of the seven. Let us refresh our memories concerning where we met Philip earlier.

Acts 6:1-5

And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

² *Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.*

³ *Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.*

⁴ *But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.*

⁵ *And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, **and Philip**, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:*

When the load became too much for the Apostles, they chose seven deacons and one of them was Philip. Now it is important to see that another deacon was Stephen and he and Philip would have been close friends. Now keep in mind that Paul consented unto the death of Stephen. Stephen was killed in Acts 7 then we read the following words in Acts 8.

Acts 8:1

And Saul was consenting unto his death. *And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.*

Paul therefore was connected with the death of Stephen and now in Acts 21 we see that Paul and his company stayed at the house of Philip, one of Stephen's good friends. This helps us to understand that Philip had forgiven Paul. There was no animosity between the two.

Application:

Forgiveness in the life of the believer is so very important. To withhold forgiveness and to carry a grudge only harms us and not the person who offended us.

Matthew 18:21-22

²¹ Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

²² Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

Jesus followed this up with a parable to emphasize the need of forgiveness.

Matthew 18:33-35

³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Because the man in the parable would not extend forgiveness after he had been forgiven so much, he was then turned over to the tormentors. Jesus then stated the same came happen to a believer. Remember what the tormentors are? They are anger and bitterness that eat your insides out, the tormentors of frustration, malice, and revenge that give you ulcers and high blood pressure and migraine headaches and lower back pain, the tormentors that make you lie awake at night on your bed stewing over every rotten thing that happens to you. The tormentors of an unforgiving heart who stalk your trail day and night, who never leave your side, who suck every bit of joy form your life.

That is not all that unforgiveness does.

Matthew 6:9-14

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

¹⁰ Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread.

¹² *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*

¹³ *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

¹⁴ *For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:*

¹⁵ *But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*

To withhold forgiveness hinders our prayer life.

Notice Acts 21:9

Philip's daughters prophesied and we can know that their ministry was outside of the church gatherings.

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

³⁴ *Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.*

³⁵ *And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.*

Let's get to Philip. The last time we read about him was in Acts 8.

Acts 8:40

⁴⁰ *But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.*

It is believed there are twenty years between Acts 8 and Acts 21 so the question is what was Philip doing in these twenty years? We can be sure he was proclaiming the Gospel because he is here called the evangelist. Another point we can understand about Philip was that he was busy raising four daughters for the glory of God.

Application:

One of the most important responsibilities parents have is to raise their children to know and love the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:6-8

⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

⁸ And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

Notice Acts 21:10-12

Here is another announcement concerning what was awaiting Paul in Jerusalem. Here is also another attempt to stop him from going.

Conclusion/application:

We will come back to this next week, but as we end tonight let us all be reminded that Satan will try time after time to keep us from the will of God. He can be very persistent in an attempt to wear us down, or discourage us, or to get us to quit.

Hebrews 12:2-3

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.