

Life Group Questions
"Paul's Gethsemane"
Acts 21:1-14

Opener: As a child, what place did your parents have to drag you to because you were too scared to go?

Read the Passage - Acts 21:1-14

1. In your eyes, did Paul make the right decision to go to Jerusalem, even though godly people through the Spirit urged him not to go? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever had a situation where you believed God was leading you in a direction, while other believers had different advice? What did you end up doing? In retrospect, were your decisions wise? Explain
3. Compare Acts 20:22-23 with the three warnings Paul receives in this story. Is the Spirit contradicting himself or is someone misapplying the Spirit's message?
4. Does knowing hardship and struggle await mean we shouldn't do something? Why or why not?
5. Read Luke 13:31-33. For Paul, it's "Jerusalem or bust!" How does that compare with Jesus' determination?

6. Read Matthew 16:21-23. How does this compare to Paul's response to the people in Acts 21:13?

7. Read Matthew 26:36-46 and/or Mark 14:32-42. List the parallels between Jesus in Gethsemane and Paul's final journey to Jerusalem?

8. In Acts 21:14, the believers resigned themselves to the will of God. At what point do we resign our wishes or desires, and fully submit to the will of God?

Memory Verse - Acts 21:13

Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Next Steps

- I understand that the "Easy way out" is not necessarily God's way forward.
- I recognize the fact that sometimes (often) I must choose between my will and God's will. I will try to pray, "not my will, but Thy will be done."
- I do not want to be the one standing in the way of a servant of God doing the will of God.