

Kingdom Clues

“Living Large”, part 28, Insights from Acts 21:1-40
Pastor Bob Johnson, March 17th, 2024

Paul’s passion to return home (Acts 21:1-14)

Choosing Calling over ...

(John 5:39-40, Acts 20:18-19)

Choosing Communion for ...

(Galatians 5:25, Acts 20:13-14, 23-24; Mark 1:35-38, Luke 22:41-42)

Paul’s plan to reach his people (Acts 21:15-26)

Being Consistent with ...

(Galatians 2:16; 3:28-29, Romans 2:28-29)

Being Compassionate with ...

(1 Corinthians 9:19-23)

Paul’s perspective to recognize (Acts 21:27-40)

He is not S ...

(2 Timothy 3:12, John 16:33, I Peter 4:12-14)

He is not S ...

(Philippians 1:21, 1 Corinthians 15:58)

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This Week's Discussion Guide

Welcome to our last week of our 9 week study and discussion based on our current Sunday series at GPC called, "Living Large". In this series, we have been slowly unpacking the Book of Acts.

Each week we have read and reflected on a passage and discussed ways we can apply what we reflect on to our daily lives.

It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships as part of our vision at GPC to raise up committed Christ followers in a healthy church community.

Getting Started:

Each week, we typically start out with a few lighter questions to get us warmed up :).

From reading Acts 21, we read how Paul chose his calling over his comfort. Speaking of comfort, what have you done recently that was uncomfortable but was in line with your values?

We also read in Acts 20, that Paul chose to get alone with God for a few days. Having solitude time with God is an important habit to have. To be consistent, it helps to have a place and a plan.

Do you have a place where you try and find time to read from God's Word and pray? What is your Bible reading plan that you are doing or you want to start doing? When do you try to build in some solitude time with God?

What are some things that will help us be more consistent in our solitude time with God?

Reviewing & Reflecting on Sunday's Passage:

From reflecting on Acts 21 this past Sunday, was there a particular thought or verse that stood out to you, encouraged you, challenged you or raised a question for you?

Of the six statements that were highlighted on the message outline, which one(s) caught your attention the most? What would be an application moving forward?

Digging Deeper:

1. Acts 20:24 is a verse we looked at last Sunday that described Paul's passion and reason for going to Jerusalem even though he knew suffering awaited him. Years later, in 2 Timothy, which is believed to be the final letter Paul wrote, he wrote that he 'finished the race' doing what he set out to do. Let's read some from Paul's last letter that he wrote from prison at the end of his life and ministry and share our insights.

2 Timothy 4:7, 2 Timothy 1:8-12, 2 Timothy 2:3-1

How do we think Paul's perspective described in these verses helped him not stop and finish his race? What are some reasons Paul gave for enduring the suffering he faced?

2. As we live out our lives and desire to serve God and others, we can learn from what Paul wrote in Philippians 4:4-8.

What are some insights from this passage that can help us maintain our convictions?

3. James, who we read about in Acts 21, provides some insights regarding enduring trials.

What insights can we share with each other from James 1:2-8 and James 1:12-15

In James 1:13-15, we read how temptations can show up during trials. Why do temptations often show up with trials?

What are some temptations that might come our way during trials (i.e. doubting God's goodness, unhealthy coping with pain and disappointment) that we can discuss and be better prepared for?

4. One example of doing the right thing but not experiencing the result you hoped for is in John 11.

Some of Jesus' closest friends were Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

Even though Mary and Martha did right in asking Jesus for help, Lazarus still died.

In light of Easter being just a few weeks away, let's read John 11:32-44 and share some observations and insights with each other.

Jesus had a visible response to this situation. What might we be able to learn from Jesus' response that we can apply when we have an opportunity to respond to others who are struggling?

In John 11, Jesus waited four days after Lazarus' death to raise him back to life. That was a long period of time for Mary and Martha!

How has your faith in God been able to endure when God's timing hasn't been yours?

Praying Together:

One of the blessings of being in a small group is being prayed for. Is there anything that came up from this week's sermon or discussion that you would like prayer for?

Is there anything else that you would like to express prayer for?

While we take a few weeks off, let's continue to pray for each other and for our upcoming Easter celebration at GPC!