

sermon notes

January 11, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church
No Other Name | "Courage Stemming from Conviction" | Acts 21:1–16

Courage Stemming from Conviction is...

- 1) Not _____ by emotional pain (Acts 21:1–3)
- 2) Not _____ by well-meaning dissent (Acts 21:4–6)
- 3) Not _____ by personal sacrifice (Acts 21:7–16)

When Christians Try to Steer You Away from Your Convictions:

- 1) _____ them out
- 2) _____ with them
- 3) _____ with them
- 4) _____ love despite _____

Questions for Further Application of God's Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 21:1–16. Acts 21:1 says Paul and Luke had to “tear themselves away” (NIV) from the Ephesian elders. What does this reveal about the depth of Paul’s relationship with these believers? How did Paul establish and nurture such strong relationships with fellow believers?

How did Paul respond when fellow Christians (including Luke!) urged him not to go to Jerusalem? What is significant about Paul’s response? Are you able to say with total conviction what Paul said at the end of 21:13? If not, why not?

How did the believers in Caesarea respond to Paul’s declaration? What is significant about their statement, “Let the will of the Lord be done”? Where else in Scripture do we see similar expressions of submission to God’s will?

GET PERSONAL

Why is courage such a vital component of a Christian’s life? Why is conviction so important? Describe a time when discomfort, emotional pain, or relational conflict pressured you to abandon your convictions. Did you hold fast or did you acquiesce to that pressure?

Describe a time when the counsel of your friends differed from what you believed the Lord was leading you to do. Did you hear your friends out? Did you pray with them? Did you reason with them? Were you able to agree to disagree? Did you demonstrate love while still holding fast to your convictions?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

How do you discern God’s will for you in a particular area of your life? R. Kent Hughes identifies four counsels for discerning God’s will: 1) The counsel of God’s Word, 2) The counsel of the Holy Spirit, 3) The counsel of godly Christians, and 4) The counsel of our conscience. How do these four counsels shape your decision making? How do they help distinguish between personal desire and the prompting of the Holy Spirit?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

After seven days with the disciples in Tyre, the believers warned Paul in 21:4. They urged him “through the Spirit” not to go to Jerusalem. How do you reconcile that with Paul’s statement in Acts 20:22 where he says he is “constrained by the Spirit” to go to Jerusalem? What does Paul decide to do and why do you think he made this decision? What does this passage teach us about discerning God’s will when sincere, Spirit-filled believers disagree?