

# sermon notes

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January 18, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church  
No Other Name | “Yielding for the Sake of Unity” | **Acts 21:17–36**

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## **Observations:**

- 1) A Warm \_\_\_\_\_ (21:17–20a)
- 2) A False \_\_\_\_\_ (21:20b–22)
- 3) A Curious \_\_\_\_\_ (21:23–25)
- 4) A Humble \_\_\_\_\_ (21:26–29)
- 5) A Fateful \_\_\_\_\_ (21:30–36)

## **Applications:**

- 1) When God says something is going to happen, \_\_\_\_\_ it
- 2) Obedience and humility don't shield a Christian from \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Love for people sometimes means sacrificing personal \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Love for unity sometimes means surrendering personal \_\_\_\_\_

## **Questions for Further Application of God's Word:**

### **GO DEEPER**

Read Acts 21:17–36. What did Paul do once he met with James and the other elders in Jerusalem (21:19)? How did the elders respond to Paul's report? What encouraging things take place in the first part of this passage?

What negative things surface when Paul gets to Jerusalem? What caused this? Why is Paul such a lightning rod in the Jerusalem church community? Are the rumors circulating about Paul true or false? Is there any semblance of truth to the accusations concerning Paul?

### **GET PERSONAL**

If Agabus's prophecy concerning Paul came true, what can we assume about God's promises to us in Scripture? What are some promises that God has made to us in his Word? Do you ever get the sense that the events in Paul's life are outside of God's control? Why or why not?

Do Christians sometimes assume that if they are suffering, it must be because God is punishing them? How do we know that this assumption is false? Do you believe that all suffering for the Christian is meaningful? Why or why not?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:9–13. What are some personal freedoms that you have sacrificed for the sake of people in your life? What are some personal preferences that you have sacrificed in service to the church? Are you ever tempted to prioritize your freedom or preferences? Do you ever idolize your freedom or preferences?

### **PUT IT INTO PRACTICE**

What do the Jerusalem church elders decide to do in order to exonerate Paul (see 21:23–24)? What would you have done if you were in their position? What is the proper way to handle accusations in the church? Are there different approaches that can be utilized to counteract false accusations? When should we speak out? When should we be silent? When should we take action to counter an accusation?

### **ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY**

How would you respond to someone who said that participation in a Muslim, Buddhist, or Hindu worship service is acceptable, since Paul participated in Jewish customs in the book of Acts? Are those situations the same? How do you distinguish between customs and traditions that are acceptable for Christians in a culture and ones that are unacceptable? Give examples of each.