

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **February 28, 2021** sermon, "When God's Will Requires Risk." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 21:17-26) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

AS BELIEVERS RISK OUR LIVES IN THE BOLD PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S GRACE, WE . . .

1. Carefully review all that God has done, one victory at a time. (17-20a)
 - a. Paul embraced the accountability he had to the elders of the church in Jerusalem.
 - i. When he arrived in Jerusalem he called them together.
 - ii. He reported on both the 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys to the Gentiles.
 - b. Paul was laser-focused on ministry victories.
 - i. He did not complain about mistreatment, challenges or afflictions.
 - ii. He reported about every ministry victory in each of the places he visited.
2. Humbly submit ourselves to Spirit-led advisors. (20b-26)
 - a. Paul's motive was to bring a financial gift to the Jerusalem church from gentile churches.
 - i. James believed that his presence in Jerusalem would produce turmoil.
 - ii. James offered a suggested course of action which might improve Paul's standing
 - b. Paul humbled himself and committed himself to do what James suggested.
 - i. To keep the law publicly in order to try to win over his detractors.
 - ii. With a history of a strong will, Paul submitted himself to the elders.
 - c. As we will see next week, the outcome was not physically successful.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: All gospel ministry is difficult. Read Paul's list of afflictions in 2 Corinthians 11:16-33. Paul almost never brings up the suffering, the limits, the opposition or the arrests, mostly because he expected mistreatment. And we should, too (John 15:18). Do you honestly expect mistreatment from those who do know Jesus? Have you made peace with this?
2. Based on #1, above: Paul did not report about the opposition and the struggle, he reported about the ministry victories, large and small. He reported about people responding to the call of Christ. He reported about gentiles coming to saving faith. When we talk about ministry victories, we provide encouragement, enthusiasm, and hope. In what ways have you disciplined yourself to see, track and talk about ministry wins? What are some of those victories?
3. Based on #2, above: While we continue to be faithful, sometimes we do not know what to do next. And sometimes are great dreams for God's kingdom are not accepted or successful. Paul had friends who said hard things to him. Do you have friends who challenge you? Who push you? Who ask you really hard questions? How do you respond to those friends?
4. Based on #2, above: What ministry goal/objective in your life is currently failing? Have you put yourself in a position to receive wise Christian advice? How can we pray for you?