

Acts 19

vs. 1-22

Paul now returned to Ephesus and found that the disciples there had not been taught about the Holy Spirit. Finding that their teaching of baptism was in error, they were taught the truth and were then immersed in compliance with the teaching of the Lord. These twelve then received the Holy Spirit when Paul laid hands on them.

Paul continued to teach for 3 months in the synagogue, about Jesus Christ. When Paul was faced with opposition, he went to a lecture hall and continued to teach there for 2 years. This allowed all the people to hear the message of Jesus Christ.

God performed miracles through Paul to affirm that the message of Christ was from the Lord. Some tried to imitate the power of Paul in casting out demons, and were overcome by the evil spirits. When this became known, people became even more impressed and gave themselves completely to Christ. Many gathered their evil materials together and destroyed them. This action caused the word of the Lord to spread widely and gain more acceptance.

Paul then decided to travel back through Asia Minor to Jerusalem. Eventually, Paul sought to travel to Rome and preach. He sent two of his fellow workers (Timothy and Erastus) ahead of him, while he lingered a bit longer in Ephesus.

vs. 22-41

Ephesus was the capital city of "Artemis" (or Diana) worship. The growth of the Christian movements began to infringe on the profit and influence of this idolatrous group. They caused a great disturbance and were able to capture Paul's travelling companions (Gaius and Aristarchus) on their way to the judgement hall. The assembly was in total chaos. Finally, they were told to dismiss by the city official in charge (who consoled them by saying that the facts about Artemis were indisputable), who counselled them to take the men to court if there were criminal charges. Otherwise, if they remained they would be guilty of rioting. The group then dispersed.

Acts 20

vs. 1- 6

After the uproar in Ephesus, Paul said good-bye to the disciples in Ephesus and headed off to Macedonia. He continued to preach as he travelled and then arrived in Greece, where he stayed for 3 months.

Paul then left (a plot against him was discovered) and several friends travelled with him (Luke was among them-- notice how he uses "we"). Part of the troupe headed on to Troas, while Paul and Luke stayed in Philippi for the Feast of Unleavened Bread (also known as Passover) and then arrived 5 days later in Troas (where they stayed for 7 days).

vs. 7-12

The Christians met on the first day of the week to partake of communion and Paul spoke to the Christians. After midnight, a young man named, Eutychus, fell asleep and fell out of the second story window where he had been seated. Paul went down and raised the young man back to life. They then returned upstairs, where Paul spoke until daylight and then left.

vs. 13-18

Part of the group sailed on ahead and picked up Paul, who had been travelling on foot. They sailed by some of the islands off the west coast of Asia Minor. In a hurry to reach Jerusalem (for Pentecost-- just 50 days after the end of the Passover), Paul sent for the elders of the church at Ephesus to meet him at Miletus (just down the coast from Ephesus).

When the elders from Ephesus arrived, Paul recounted his ministry and the message of Jesus that he had been preaching. He then informed them of the need for him to go to Jerusalem, even though he has been warned that prison and hardships are ahead. He stated that he was more concerned at finishing the task that Christ had given him than his own interests.

Paul then warned the elders to stay on guard against false teachers and false teachings. He reminded them that he had constantly sought to give of himself, rather than seeking things for himself. He quotes the words of Jesus (only place recorded) that it is "more blessed to give than to receive". They then prayed and he departed after a sentimental farewell.

Acts 21

vs. 1-16

Luke then records the various islands and ports that they stopped at on their way to Jerusalem. When they reached Tyre (city on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean-- about 100 miles from Jerusalem). Paul stayed at Tyre for 7 days with some Christians. They then left by boat and arrived at another city on the coast (Ptolemais) where they stayed for a day with some Christians. They moved on down to Caesarea where they stayed at the house of Philip (one of the chosen 7 from Acts 6). God sent a message through Agabus the prophet, that Paul was going to be handed over and bound in Jerusalem because of his preaching. Even though his friends tried to persuade him not to go, Paul insisted, stating that he was willing to die for Christ, it need be.

Paul then continued his journey to Jerusalem, now accompanied with some of the Caesarean Christians. In Jerusalem, he was again housed by one of the Christians there.

vs. 17-26

The Christians at Jerusalem warmly received Paul and he reported how the Lord had been blessing his travels. Aware that some might not understand Paul teaching the non-Jews, the Church arranged Paul to go with 4 Jewish men who were partaking of a Jewish vow. By participating with them, the Jews would have no reason to be upset with him.

vs. 27-36

As the 7 days of the vow were about to end, some Asian Jews (who had seen Paul during his travels there) stirred up the crowd and convinced them that Paul was doing unlawful (according to Jewish law) things (they were mistaken for they had jumped to an incorrect conclusion). Paul was then taken, dragged and attacked. The Roman troops came to settle things down and the people stopped beating Paul. Paul was arrested by the Romans. The crowd could give no reason for Paul to be arrested, so the Romans decided to take him where they could talk without commotion and get to the cause of the uproar (people calling for him to be killed).

Paul asked permission, as he was being taken away, to speak to the crowd. The commander then discovered that Paul was not a revolutionary, that he had thought him to be. Paul was given permission and then spoke to the Jewish crowd in a language very familiar to them (Aramaic).

STUDY GUIDE

ACTS 19

1. Where did Paul find disciples who had not received the Holy Spirit and what did he do about it?
2. Where did Paul go when opposition arose in the synagogue?
3. Those who accepted Jesus and had formerly practiced sorcery, did what?
4. What was the occupation of Demetrius and how was it being threatened?
5. How did the Ephesians respond to Demetrius' speech?
6. Who persuaded Paul not to go and speak to the people?
7. What did the city clerk say that Gaius and Aristarchus were not guilty of?
8. What suggestion did the city clerk make concerning resolving the issue?
9. What was the clerk afraid that the people were in danger of?

BONUS:

1. What does the first 7 verses of the chapter teach about rebaptism?
2. Think of areas where you need to put evil deeds in the past.
3. What are the gods that people worship today?

STUDY GUIDE

ACTS 20

1. What did Paul do following the uproar?
2. How long did Paul speak at Troas?
3. What happened to the young man who fell asleep during the Paul's preaching?
4. What did Paul not hesitate to preach?
5. What was Paul warned he would face in Jerusalem?
6. What advice does Paul give to the Ephesian elders?
7. What had Paul not coveted?
8. How had Paul's needs been supplied?
9. What example had Paul set and what words should be remembered?
10. How did Paul and the Ephesian elders part?

BONUS:

1. What does the incident at Troas teach us today about our opinion of the length of the service?
2. What seems to be the responsibility of the elders?
3. How do you know that Paul became close to those that he worked with?

STUDY GUIDE

ACTS 21

1. Why did Paul and his travelling companions stay at Tyre for 7 days?
2. How was Paul sent off by the people of Tyre?
3. What was the prophecy of Agabus?
4. How did the people gathered, respond to the prophecy?
5. Did the prophecy bother Paul? Explain.
6. What did Paul do at Jerusalem and how had he been greeted?
7. Why was Paul to go with 4 men and join in their purification rites?
8. Who stirred up the crowd at the temple?
9. What happened to Paul during this commotion?
10. How was the commotion ended?
11. What was Paul's background?

BONUS

1. How do you know that people appreciated Paul and what he had done?
2. What do you think about Paul's statement in vs. 13?
3. What were the assumptions made about Paul by the crowd and the Roman commander?