

Acts Study Questions: Week 7 Farewells and Defenses

Monday, June 28

Acts 18:24-Acts 19:20

1. In Acts 18, we are told that although Apollos is well-versed in the scriptures, and is preaching the word effectively, he still doesn't know the whole story of the gospel. Priscilla and Aquila are able to educate him, and thus spur his ministry on. There are many things we also do not understand about the scriptures, or about how God works. But do not be discouraged! We, like Apollos, are still following Jesus. Likewise, let's pray this week for someone to educate us and show us how to better live for God.
2. The Holy Spirit uses Paul to re-orient the lives of many people in Acts to be centered around God's will as revealed in Jesus. In Acts 19, one of the evidences we receive of this re-orientation of people's lives is how they discard their magic books, despite their monetary value. As you are continually orienting your life to fulfill God's will, what do you need to discard?

Tuesday, June 29

Acts 19:21-41

1. In today's reading, we hear about how the counter-cultural Gospel that Paul is preaching is met with fear, misunderstanding, anger, rejection, and confusion. This response is understandable. The Gospel that is presented in Luke and Acts is very challenging to our society as well. Are you living the Gospel described in Luke-Acts? Pray for God to conform your actions to his counter-cultural Gospel. *"...love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return."* Luke 6:35b *"They would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need."* Acts 2:45
2. Paul hears from both expected and unexpected sources that he should not try to intervene with the mob. Sometimes God likes to speak to us through other people, and sometimes it is people we do not expect! Think of the last time God spoke to you through other people – were you willing to hear and obey? Pray that today you will be able to hear God's will through someone else.

Wednesday, June 30

Acts 20:1-38

1. One of the themes of the reading today was the incessant encouragement of Paul to his disciples. He was pretty sure he was never going to see them again. What message does he choose to leave them? Be encouraged! How can you encourage your brothers and sisters in their walk with Jesus this week? Pray now

that God will pour encouragement into you that will overflow into the lives of others.

2. Another main theme of the reading today was suffering for the sake of Christ. Paul tells of his past, present, and future suffering. He also tells the Ephesians that they will experience suffering as they do God's work. For Paul, living for Christ includes suffering. Has that been true in your life? How? Pray today that God will give you the strength to withstand the suffering that will come in your life, the wisdom to lean on fellow believers, the hope of release at the resurrection, and the ability to grieve together.

Thursday, July 1

Acts 21:1-14

1. Sometimes God calls us to do something that seems crazy, stupid, and dangerous. All around Paul were signs and warnings that the road he was on would lead to great suffering, and probably death. But Paul was resolved, he was ready to die for Jesus. What is God calling you to do for the sake of Jesus that seems counter-intuitive? Will you listen to God's call today?
2. When Paul's companions are concerned about him, they beg him to look out for his own safety. But when he assures them that he is doing God's work, they are content to say "God's will be done." Meditate on that phrase today. Find it in your thoughts and on your lips. When worry creeps in, let the assurance of "God's will be done" center you. In your tasks, your work, your travels, your meals, your conversations, your shower, your potty breaks, your television watching, and in your recreation—God's will be done.

Friday, July 2

Acts 21:15-26

1. When Paul arrives in Jerusalem, he is immediately warned about possible conflict. He takes the advice of James, in order to keep peace with the Jerusalem Jewish Christians. Who are some Christians in your life who can give you advice to follow? Pray that God will provide you with some mentoring, because if Paul could use it, we all can!
2. When you first read this passage, it might seem weird that Paul, who in the letters seems to preach leaving some of the Jewish law behind, is willingly participating in Jewish customs here to keep the peace. But, Paul is becoming all things to all people, so that God's will can be done, namely the spreading of Jesus' message. Listen to the Holy Spirit today for guidance on how you can leave your comfort zone so that more people will hear and know Jesus' message.

This week's questions were put together by FBCP'S Ben Cassil. Ben works at First Baptist Church Pasadena as both a Worship Intern, and an Administrative Assistant in the office. You might have seen him playing guitar on Sunday, or impersonating Huell Howser. Wow! Ben recently celebrated five years of marriage with his wife, Mandy, who is in her fourth year of the Clinical Psychology PhD program at Fuller Seminary. Ben graduated from Fuller last year with a MA in Theology. He feels called to teach people about the Bible. He plans to continue to be involved in FBCP ministry, and give a lot of high fives. Please thank Ben for his effort in writing these questions for our church.