



THE HEIGHTS FELLOWSHIP

THIS WEEK AT THF

▶ WEDNESDAY

THF STUDENTS - End of Year Party @ Main Event
6:00pm-8:30pm ~ Register & Pay on Student Page of Website

▶ THURSDAY

THF Men's Ministry - Bible Study & Fellowship
6:30am-7:30am

UPCOMING AT THF

MAY 15-MAY 17 - Men's Retreat

MAY 16 - Women's Ministry Brunch

May 10, 2026

Please continue to check all of our social media outlets and our website for updates to weekly activities and Sunday Services.

www.theheightsfellowship.org

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

May 3, 2026

BUDGET GIVING: \$21,059.25
BUDGET NEEDS: \$19,902.00

YEAR TO DATE

BUDGET GIVING: \$314,257.76
BUDGET NEEDS: \$346,864.00

Acts | 21:1-16

THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP

If you want to know God's will,
do the will of God you already know.



Since Acts 19 - Paul is on a **MISSION** to follow Jesus.

"Now after these events Paul **resolved** in the Spirit to pass through Macedonia and Achaia and go to Jerusalem." Acts 19:21

"I am going to Jerusalem, **constrained by the Spirit**, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me" Acts 20:22-23

He was **CERTAIN** that he was being directed to Jerusalem by the HS!

The story of this text begins back in Chapter 20...

³⁶ When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And they began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, ³⁸ grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship. Acts 20:36-38

1) Compare Acts 21:1-16 to Acts 18:21-22... Luke adds **detail** this time - **HE WANTS TO HIGHLIGHT ALL THE WARNINGS PAUL IS GETTING ENROUTE**

2) There is an **undercurrent** in this text...note the **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** that Paul finds every place he lands!

...MEANS DOING THE HARD THING vv1-6

It takes courage to die for Christ, but it also takes courage to live for Him.
- MacArthur

It required a **LEAVING**

- The **parting** from the Ephesian Christians was **HEART-RENDING parting** v1 is from *apospao* - to **TEAR** away or **DRAG AWAY**

It required a **URGENCY** and **PRIORITY**

- *Cos* and *Rhodes* are islands. *Patara* is a port on the mainland... they **island-hopped** a **DAYS VOYAGE** each

- They found a **larger** ship to take them across the **open ocean** (~ **5 DAYS**). Paul was **hurrying** to get to Jerusalem by **PENTECOST** 20:16
Paul was **driven** to **MEET NEEDS** in Jerusalem
He was **compelled** to **UNIFY** the church

...MEANS TRUSTING JESUS EVEN WHEN OTHERS DON'T GET IT vv7-14

...the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.
- Paul (Acts 20:23 *esv*)

- On at least **three occasions** (vv4,11,12) in this text, Paul is warned **IN THE SPIRIT** to avoid Jerusalem

Was Paul disobedient to the word of the Lord by ignoring the advice of the Christians who warned him? NO!

1 - 'in the Spirit' means they were speaking by the Spirit's gifting.

Their warnings were **PREDICTIVE**, not **PROHIBITIVE!**

2 - Paul demonstrated a **SENSITIVITY** to the Spirit to go or not to go in many other instances. (Acts 16:6-7,9-10) It was unlikely he would abandon that now.

3 - The **HOLY SPIRIT** had also warned Paul - but not forbidden him to go. Acts 20:22-23

4 - Paul testified to his **OBEDIENCE** to go to Jerusalem. Acts 23:1, 24:16

Three Thoughts -

→ Sometimes good people (God's people) will give you **WRONG** advice

→ Sometimes our advice is based more on our **wants** than **GOD'S WILL**

→ Sometimes the most **encouraging** human advice **DISCOURAGES** us from God's will

...MEANS YOUR 'HARD' ENCOURAGES OTHER BELIEVERS vv15-16

Some of the disciples from Caesarea - who had just tried to **dissuade** Paul - **ACCOMPANIED** him to Jerusalem - and even **directed** him!

They would have been certain of three things -

① That Paul was a **MARKED MAN** in Jerusalem...danger was everywhere

② That if they **identified** with Paul, they put themselves in **HARMS WAY**

③ That the risk to follow Jesus was **WORTH IT**

Paul's obedience to God's will encouraged other believers.

"To choose to suffer means there is something wrong; to choose God's will even if it means suffering is a very different thing. No healthy saint ever chooses suffering; he chooses God's will, as Jesus did, whether it means suffering or not."

- Oswald Chambers. *My Utmost For His Highest*

INSIGHTS AND APPLICATIONS -

1. Love people - love Jesus **MORE!**

2. Allow people to speak into your life...but **FOLLOW GOD'S WILL!**

3. There's something worse than dying - **NOT LIVING GOD'S WAY.**

4. You will never **REGRET** following Jesus down the Calvary road.

5. Following Jesus is costly - not following Jesus is **MORE COSTLY!**

The only thing more costly than discipleship is the cost of non-discipleship!

- Tony Merida

THF LIFENotes

5-10-26

1. In verses 1-6, Paul continued toward Jerusalem even though he knew hardship awaited him. What are some “hard things” God may call believers to do today, and what usually makes obedience difficult? How can Paul’s example challenge the way we approach sacrifice and comfort in our own discipleship?
2. In verses 7-14, Paul’s friends pleaded with him not to go to Jerusalem because they loved him and feared for his safety. Have you ever felt called by God to do something that others around you didn’t fully understand or support? How do we balance listening to wise counsel while still trusting and obeying Jesus’ leading?
3. In verses 15-16, Paul’s willingness to endure hardship strengthened and encouraged other believers along the journey. Can you think of someone whose faithfulness through difficulty encouraged your own walk with Christ? How can our response to hardship become a testimony that strengthens the faith of others?