

B. Committing Decisions to the Lord in Prayer (14)

i. They are not torn about who is ultimately in charge.

ii. Luke 22:42

Summary: If we want to discern rightly the Spirit's purposes we are going to have to know Jesus Christ. To know Jesus Christ is to love our brothers with deep affection. To know Jesus Christ is to know Him in His Sufferings. To know Jesus Christ is to know Him as Sovereign Lord to whom we can entrust all things in prayer. When any one of these aspects is left out discernment may be difficult.

LIVE THE STORY

The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community. The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What can we learn from this text about how spiritual gifts and guidance for the Christian life?
- What are some of the reasons we see in the text that might explain some misguided interpretation of the Spirit's will?
- Have you ever struggled to see someone leave, as Paul was leaving, to what you thought might be a difficult time for them? Did you express your concerns? Did you pray together?
- Explain "Sometimes we can confuse a benefit of our calling with the goal of our calling," with examples from the text. Can you find ways we might be tempted in our own day to do this?
- Read Paul's desire for his life in Philippians 3:10-14. Can you see ways in which the thinking he describes there mirrors the actions he displays in Acts 21? Explain.
- In what ways might Paul and his team in this text display the truths Jesus promised in Mark 10:29-30?
- Compare Peter's response to Jesus in Luke 22:33 with Paul's words in Acts 21:13. What do you make of the similarities? How might you explain the difference in outcomes?

Spiritual Gifts, Affection, and Discernment

Jerry Cisar — January 11, 2015

Text: Acts 21:1-17

Introduction: Following Christ on the Way to Jerusalem

A. To know Christ

i. Philippians 3:10-12

ii. Acts 20:22-23

B. Questions

i. What role do spiritual gifts play in discerning God's will for our lives?

ii. Should I expect my pastor to have discernment for whether or not I should take a job in another city?

iii. If God has called us out of the world to be his people joined and built together, why would he ever call some to move to other cities and disrupt this wonderful experience God has given us?

iv. How are these questions related to knowing Christ and following Him on the way?

C. A Prophet, the People and Paul (21:10-15)

I. Gifts of the Spirit

A. Tyre (21:4b)

B. Agabus

i. Acts 11:27-28

ii. Acted Out Prophecy

iii. *"The Holy Spirit says..."* Ezekiel 11:5

C. Interpreting this word from the Spirit? 21:12

Tannehill: *"Perhaps the Spirit's message is consistent, but the prophets in Tyre have mixed their own conclusion with the Spirit's message....Appeal to divine guidance is not an easy escape from the ambiguities of human life."*

II. Affection of the Spirit

A. *Why are you weeping and breaking my heart?*

Alexis de Tocqueville: *"the final aim of life is placed beyond life."*

B. Departure from Ephesus (20:36-21:1)

i. Notice the details of the departure:

a) *He knelt down with all of them and prayed."*

b) *They all wept...embraced him and kissed him.*

c) *After we had torn ourselves away from them*

C. In Tyre

i. Paul and team pursue hospitality. (21:4)

ii. Mark 10:29-30

iii. The Beach Scene (5)

D. Caesarea (21:8-14)

i. The House of Philip

ii. Acts 2:17

E. The Home of Mnason

III. Discernment of the Spirit

A. Paul was able to discern the Lord's purpose. (13)

i. Acts 20:24

ii. Matthew 16:21-23