Lesson 6: “The will of the Lord be done” – Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:1-22:2)

**Review**

In chapter 20, Paul leaves Ephesus, travels through Macedonia, and works in Greece for 3 months. He intends to sail to Syria to deliver relief for the needy saints in Jerusalem. However, he learns of the Jews’ plot against him and goes north via Macedonia with 7 other men assisting with the gift. Luke joins Paul in Philippi (20:5). The group sails to Troas where Paul stays for 7 days and raises Eutychus from the dead. Paul travels by land to Assos and meets Luke and company who sail along the coast. They then sail to Mitylene, Chios, Samos, and stay at Trogyllium (opposite Samos). From there, they travel to Miletus with Paul deciding not to go to Ephesus in order to attend Pentecost in Jerusalem. From Miletus, Paul calls for the Ephesian elders and delivers a heartfelt message. He speaks of his genuine love and concern for them and how he is more concerned with “finishing the race” than he is about his own life, as he goes to Jerusalem. He declares he is innocent of those who have refused the gospel. He delivers specific warnings to the elders on being vigilant and protecting the flock from false teachers, both internal and external. He encourages and reminds them of his example when he labored among them. Finally, he kneels and prays with them as he tells them they will never see his face again. With these words, the elders accompany him to the ship.

1. Why was Paul’ s message to the Ephesian elders important in light of what we know about the history of the Ephesian church (Acts 18:19; 19:8-10; 19:18-20; 20:17-35; Ephesians 1:15-23, 4:1-3; Revelation 2:1-7)?
2. Why does Paul continue his journey to Jerusalem when the brethren at Tyre tell him, through the Holy Spirit, not to go (21:4-5; 20:16, 20-24)?
3. What prophecy does Agabus deliver to Paul in Caesarea, what is the source of the prophecy, and how does he give it? What is the reaction of the brethren (21:10-12)?
4. How does Paul answer the brethren, and what is their response (21:13-14)?

**Paul in Jerusalem**

1. What had the Jewish Christians been told about Paul’s teaching about the Law of Moses (Acts 21:21)? Was the charge against Paul true (Acts 16:3; Galatians 2:3-5)? What did James and the elders advise Paul to do (Acts 21:22-25)?
2. Upon seeing Paul in the temple, what did the Jews from Asia do? What did they accuse Paul of, and what was the reaction of the people (21:27-30)?
3. Why does the Roman commander get involved, and what does he do to Paul? What is the reaction of the crowd (21:31-36)?
4. Who does the Roman commander mistake Paul to be, and how does Paul identify himself (21:38-39)?
5. When Paul speaks to the mob, how does he attempt to appeal to the crowd and disarm the situation (21:40-22:2)?