



MARCH 26, 2023

22004 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall CA 91321
661-259-2913 | info@placiritachurch.com
Listen to sermon audio at www.placiritachurch.com

The Joy and Challenges in Ministry

Acts 21:17-26

I. A Grace-motivated Gift (v. 17)

A. Giving is a _____ to the grace of Jesus
[Acts 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-27; Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 8:9]

B. Giving resources is a _____ way to help others
[Acts 2:45; 4:32-35]

C. Giving doesn't guarantee _____ in the church
[Rom. 15:30-31; Prov. 3:9; Mal. 3:8-10; Lk. 6:38]

II. A God-centered Celebration (vv. 18-20a)

A. All the _____ were present (v. 18)
[Acts 2:42; 4:35, 37; 6:2-6; 12:2; 14:23; 15:2; 20:17; 1 Pet. 5:1, 5; Gal. 2:9]

B. All the _____ goes to God (v. 19)
[Acts 11:4; 14:27; Psa. 103:2; Rom. 15:18]

C. All the _____ goes to God (v. 20a)
[Acts 11:18; Phil. 1:15-18]

III. A Gospel-driven Plan (vv. 20b-26)

A. The _____ of a rumor against Paul (vv. 20b-22)
[Rev. 5:11; 1 Cor. 7:19; Gal. 6:14-15; Rom. 10:4]

B. The _____ of being purified in the temple (vv. 23-26)
[Num. 6; Judg. 16:17; 1 Sam. 1:11; Lk. 1:15; 1 Cor. 9:19-23]

TAKE HOME

- Are you ***motivated*** by the grace of God to give in a way that would honor the Lord?
- Are you ***celebrating*** with others the grace of God in action, even if it is in a different ministry, by giving all the glory to the Lord?
- Are you ***willing*** to live a gospel-driven life in such a way as to forgo your freedom so that you can be a servant of all?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placiritachurch.com.

1. Read Acts 21:17. What gift did Paul bring to the Jerusalem church? How did they respond? What can this teach us about giving to the Lord and His work? (Acts 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-27; Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 8:9)

2. How does giving to the church and to others help in a tangible way? Have you ever been tempted to manipulate others by your gift? What other principles do we see about giving in some of these cross-references? (Acts 2:45; 4:32-35; Rom. 15:30-31; Prov. 3:9; Mal. 3:8-10; Lk. 6:38)

3. Read Acts 21:18. Why is it important that we see the transition of leadership in the early church go from apostles to elders? (Acts 2:42; 4:35, 37; 6:2-6; 12:2; 14:23; 15:2; 20:17; 1 Pet. 5:1, 5; Gal. 2:9)

4. Read Acts 21:19-20a. How does Paul show in this passage that all the credit and all the glory belong to God. How can we be sure to do the same thing? (Acts 11:4; 14:27; Psa. 103:2; Rom. 15:18; Acts 11:18; Phil. 1:15-18)

5. Read Acts 21:20b-22. What was the problem that was presented? How big of a problem was this? Where have we seen this before? (Rev. 5:11; 1 Cor. 7:19; Gal. 6:14-15; Rom. 10:4)

6. Read Acts 21:23-26. What was the plan that James and the other elders put forth? What do you like about this plan? What do we need to be cautious about? How did Paul receive this suggestion? What can we learn from all this? (Num. 6; Judg. 16:17; 1 Sam. 1:11; Lk. 1:15; 1 Cor. 9:19-23)

7. Read the take home questions. Which one challenges you or encourages you the most? Why? How will you live your life differently this week based on what you have learned from this passage?

“Paul had impacted the community of the Gentiles in a never-to-be-forgotten manner over the course of three great journeys. But back home, back among the aunt-eyed, narrow-minded, petty guardians of a closed society, a vindictive few took advantage of a simple misunderstanding to inflame a mob. Paul’s response would become his most challenging test of greatness.”

- Charles Swindoll, *Living Insights: Acts New Testament Commentary*