

Rejecting Spirit-Inspired Advise
Acts 21:1-28

Intro: After “tearing himself away” from the Ephesian elders at Miletus (21:1), Paul resumes and completes the final leg of his return to Jerusalem. The most striking characteristic of this section is the Spirit-inspired warnings from Christians (vv. 4, 11-12) of the dangers that awaited Paul in Jerusalem. *Was he wrong in refusing to heed these warnings?* It seems that the Holy Spirit’s warnings were designed to confirm and to prepare Paul for the suffering and imprisonment that awaited him (see 23:11).

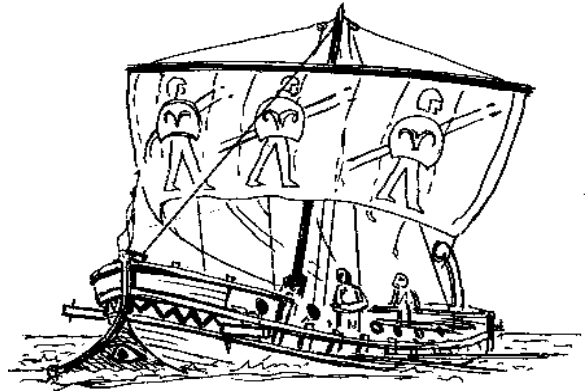
The structure of chapter 21 follows a *geographical progression*.

I. From Miletus to Tyre 21:1-6

- A. The voyage (vv. 1-3)
- B. The warning (vv. 4-6)

II. From Tyre to Caesarea 21:7-14

- A. The voyage (vv. 7-8a)
- B. Philip and his daughters (vv. 8b-9)
- C. The prophetic warning by Agabus (vv. 11-12)



Agabus conveys “the word of the Holy Spirit” to Paul through a symbolic act similar to the acted-out prophecies of the Old Testament prophets (see Isa. 20:1-4; Ezek 4:1-3, 4-8, 9-17, 5:1-17; Hosea 1:2). This prophetic form includes: (1) the symbolic act; (2) the formula “thus says the LORD/Holy Spirit”; and (3) the inspired interpretation.

- D. The response by Paul (vv. 13-14)

III. From Caesarea to Jerusalem 21:15-28

- A. The reception and report to the elders (vv. 15-19)
- B. The elders’ response and recommendation (vv. 20-25)
- C. Paul’s compliance, the Asian Jews’ charges, and the ensuing riot (vv. 26-28)

Applications:

1. Be careful when you offer advise to another, **be sure that it is Spirit-inspired!**
2. And more importantly, be sure that you have implemented the same advise in your own life!
- 3.

