DIGGING DEEPER



SUNDAY STUDY RESOURCE

FULL SEND
A VERSE BY VERSE STUDY THROUGH ACTS PART 2

"Bound and Determined"
ACTS 21:1-36 NKJV

SYNOPSIS

What we choose to bind ourselves to will determine the direction of our lives. As followers of Jesus, we are called to be bound to God's will and determined to follow Him, no matter the cost. Continuing in the second half of our verse by verse study through the book of Acts called "Full Send," Pastor Tim teaches a message from Acts Chapter 21 entitled "Bound & Determined" that includes 4 takeaways from God's Word that we can apply in our lives.

Followers of Jesus must be bound to...

1) God's will, not their own
2) God's Word, not man's opinions
3) God's calling, not their comfort
4) Whatever trials may come, but determined to finish their race

We hope this message encourages you to surrender your will to the Lord, stand firmly on the truth of His Word, and remain faithful to His calling, no matter what trials you may face.

KEY VERSE:

"These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."

ACTS 17:6 (NKJV)

4:12

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Text: Acts 21:1–14; Luke 22:39–46
Cross-References: Acts 20:22–24; Proverbs 3:5–6; Romans 12:1–2; Matthew 16:24–26; James 4:13–15; Isaiah 55:8–9
Discuss: In Acts 21:4, the disciples in Tyre tell Paul through the Spirit not to go to Jerusalem, yet Paul believes he is bound by the Spirit to go there. Later, Agabus prophesies that Paul will be bound and handed over to the Gentiles. How should we understand the relationship between God's warning about suffering and Paul's decision to continue? What does this passage teach us about the difference between knowing hardship is coming and being instructed to avoid it?

Text: Acts 21:26–30
Cross-References: John 15:18–21; John 16:33; 2 Timothy 3:10–12; 1 Peter 4:12–16; Matthew 5:10–12; Philippians 1:12–14; 2 Corinthians 4:7–10
Discuss: In Acts 21:27–30, Paul is seized by a hostile crowd, and his obedience does not prevent him from experiencing persecution. Why is it dangerous to assume that hardship automatically means we have made the wrong decision? How does Paul's experience challenge the idea that following God should always result in comfort, acceptance, or outward success?

Text: Joshua 24:14–15; Acts 21:13; John 8:34–36
Cross-References: Matthew 6:19–24; Romans 6:12–18; Galatians 5:16–25; Colossians 3:1–5; 1 Corinthians 6:12; Psalm 139:23–24
Discuss: Jesus teaches that no one can serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). What does it mean to serve something rather than simply enjoy or use it? How can you tell when a relationship, ambition, possession, habit, or desire has begun to exercise authority over your decisions?

FAMILY DISCUSSION *(Questions for your middle-school or high-school children)*

Text: Acts 21:15–26
Cross-References: Acts 15:19–29; 1 Corinthians 9:19–23; Galatians 1:10; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Romans 12:2; Colossians 2:8; Mark 7:6–13
Discuss: In Acts 21:17–21, Paul arrives in Jerusalem and learns that rumors have spread about his teaching concerning Moses and Jewish customs. Why can false reports and other people's perceptions create obstacles for someone seeking to follow God faithfully? What responsibility do Christians have to verify what they hear before forming opinions about another believer?

REFLECTIONS

1) Read Galatians 1:10. By proposing this question, Paul makes the point that it is more important to seek the approval of God than people. In what ways might the fear of disappointing family members, friends, coworkers, or church members influence a person's understanding or application of Scripture?

2) If following Jesus required me to surrender a particular opportunity, habit, relationship expectation, personal ambition, or source of comfort, what would be hardest to release? What might that difficulty reveal about my heart?

3) When something God asks of you conflicts with what you want, resist the temptation to hide your disappointment or justify disobedience. Use Luke 22:42 as a prayer each morning this week. Name one desire or concern before God, then identify one way you can honor Him that day regardless of how you feel.