Sunday, November 8, 2026 - Small Group Questions
No Longer Living for Ourselves

Acts 21:3–14, 17–23

This Sunday we continued a sermon series entitled *"Empowered to Bear Witness to Jesus' Kingdom."* This series focuses on how the risen and ascended Jesus empowers his disciples for mission through the gift of the outpoured Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. Observe. Read Acts 21:3–14. As Paul travels toward Jerusalem, he's met with several different people and responses to his journey. What do you notice about the way Luke describes these encounters? What do people say and do, and how does Paul respond?

Pay particular attention to the warnings Paul receives, the response of his companions, and Paul's determination to continue.

2. Paul conviction. Look again at verses 10-14.

Agabus gives Paul a prophetic warning about what awaits him in Jerusalem. Those travelling with Paul plead with him not to go, but Paul remains resolved.

What do you think motivates Paul's determination? What does his response in verse 13 reveal about how he understands his own life and his calling?

3. The nature of Christian discipleship. Read Acts 21:13

Consider Paul's words alongside Jesus' teaching in John 12:24-26. What connections do you see between Paul's attitude toward his own life and Jesus' invitation to follow him?

What might it mean for someone to no longer live for themselves? How is this different from simply being a good or selfless person?

4. The nature of the church. Read Acts 21:17–23.

When Paul arrives in Jerusalem, he meets with James and the elders and gives an account of what God has been doing among the Gentiles through his ministry. Notice how the leaders respond in verses 19–20.

What does this encounter reveal about the relationship between Paul, the Jewish believers in Jerusalem, and the Gentile believers? What tensions or challenges do you notice?

5. Giving ourselves away for one another. Look at Acts 21 20–23.

Paul is confronted with a concern about how his ministry is being understood by Jewish believers. The elders propose a course of action that will help address these concerns.

How does this situation challenge our understanding of Christian freedom and our responsibility toward other believers?

What might it look like to willingly lay aside our own preferences, rights, or freedoms for the sake of the unity and well-being of the church?

6. Looking back over the passage, what do we learn about the way following Jesus transforms both our individual lives and our life together as the church?

Where might Jesus be inviting you to move beyond living primarily for yourself and toward giving yourself away for the good of others?

Close in prayer