

Acts
Bound & Determined
Acts 21:1-26

[Personal relationship with parents contrasted with long-distance/indirect relationship]

- I. Background: Paul's Ministry
 - A. Who
 - In relationship with Jesus (Acts 9:3-6,15-16; Philippians 3:7-14)
 - B. What
 - Proclaim name of Jesus to Gentiles & Jews
 - C. When
 - In season & out of season
 - D. Where
 - To the world
 - E. Why
 - For the glory of God
 - F. How
 - Led by the Spirit
 - [Summary Statement]*
- II. On to Jerusalem (1-14)
 - Consistent leading by the Spirit (19:21; 20:16)
 - Bind (11) v. Bound (13)
- III. For the Sake of the Jews (15-26)
 - Purify (24) - Explanation from notes to NET Bible

Go Forward

Know: Read the following verses: John 17:4; Acts 20:24; 2 Corinthians 5:13-15; Galatians 2:20. What do they say about your life as a Christian?

Grow: Spend time with God, praying about your relationship with Him. Confess your sins. Tell Him of the state of your readiness to follow Him. Open your heart to His direction.

Show: Ministering to others - both authentically and sustainably - ultimately flows out of a life that is in intimate relationship with the Lord. As you press in to Him and your desire to please Him in everything grows (2 Corinthians 5:9), He will grow you in your strength and resolve to be "bound and determined" to follow Him.

As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."...But the Lord said to [Ananias], "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." (Acts 9:3-6,15-16)

But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:7-14)

Because of his intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, Paul was bound and determined to:

- Proclaim the name of Jesus to everyone
- Using every open opportunity
- In every place
- For God's glory
- Guided by the Holy Spirit

From notes to NET Bible re: Paul's purification ritual (v24):

"That is, undergo ritual cleansing. Paul's cleansing would be necessary because of his travels in 'unclean' Gentile territory. This act would represent a conciliatory gesture. Paul would have supported a 'law-free' mission to the Gentiles as an option, but this gesture would represent an attempt to be sensitive to the Jews (1 Corinthians 9:15-22)."

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I may win more. To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; I have become all things to all men, so that I may by all means save some. I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. (1 Corinthians 9:19-23)