

**August 4, 2013**  
**"The Lord's Will Be Done."**  
**Acts 21:10-14**

**10** Several days later a man named Agabus, who also had the gift of prophecy, arrived from Judea. **11** He came over, took Paul's belt, and bound his own feet and hands with it. Then he said, "The Holy Spirit declares, 'So shall the owner of this belt be bound by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem and turned over to the Gentiles.'" **12** When we heard this, we and the local believers all begged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.

**13** But he said, "Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus." **14** When it was clear that we couldn't persuade him, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."



Remember from last week that Paul was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem in time for the feast of Pentecost. After speaking with and saying a final farewell to the elders of the Ephesian church in Miletus; he got back on the ship and sailed first to the island of Cos(z), the next day reached the Island of Rhodes, then to Pat-a-ra. From there they sailed pass the Island of Cyprus, and eventually arrived at Tyre. While there we read:

**Acts 21:4-6**

We went ashore, found the local believers, and stayed with them a week. These believers prophesied through the Holy Spirit that Paul should not go on to Jerusalem. When we returned to the ship at the end of the week, the entire congregation, including wives and children, left the city and came down to the shore with us. There we knelt, prayed, (*right there on the beach*) and said our farewells. Then we went aboard, and they returned home.

We know that Paul went to Jerusalem, so was he disobeying the Holy Spirit? Not at all, he knew he was being told by the Holy Spirit to go. The prophecy had to do with the dangers Paul would face there and so the believers were urging him not to go (just as we see in our text today).

From Tyre it was just a short distance to Ptol-e-ma-is; he stayed with believes there for a day and the next day went to Caesarea, the last stop before going on to Jerusalem.

Sailing by ship during that time was dependent on variable winds, so sailing schedules were very uncertain. You really had to allow yourself a large margin of time in figuring any arrival date. It would seem that Paul made better time than he had anticipated and had several days to spare before Pentecost because he stayed several days in Caesarea.

While he was at Caesarea, the Gentile capital of Judea, a prophet, Agabus came from Jerusalem the Jewish Judea. He is probably the same prophet mentioned 15 years earlier in ...

#### Acts 11:27-28

During this time some prophets traveled from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up in one of the meetings and predicted by the Spirit that a great famine was coming upon the entire Roman world. (This was fulfilled during the reign of Claudius.)

In this instance Agabus took Paul's belt or the sash that would be worn around the waist, and with it tied up his hands and feet (not sure if "he" is Agabus, or Paul).

Then Agabus said, "This is what the Holy Spirit says: The Jewish leaders in Jerusalem are going to tie up the man who owns this belt and hand him over to the gentiles, (i.e.) the Roman rulers." You will notice that Agabus did not tell Paul to avoid going to Jerusalem, but in this dramatic way warned him of what would happen to him if he did go. We know that Paul did go. Why? Because the Holy Spirit was telling him to. Paul's life was under the control of the Spirit. When a Christian lives in the Spirit and is influenced by the Spirit we see:

#### 1. Christian Concern (v12)

In verse 12 Luke writes, "When we (includes Luke) heard this (prophecy from Agabus), we and the local believers (there in Caesarea) all begged Paul not to go on to

**Jerusalem.**” Having witnessed and being spurred on by this dramatic and graphic prophecy from Agabus, Luke together with the other believers urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. There is no doubt about the love these Gentile believers had for this great apostle, Paul, and how much Luke and Paul’s other traveling companions had for him as well. Paul was so important to them and to the cause of Christ. Out of this love and concern they begged him not to go. Christians, whose lives are under the control of the Holy Spirit, have love and concern for others and they express that love and concern. But we must also be careful to consider God’s will.

## 2. Christian Courage (v13)

But (when out of love and concern they begged him not to go) he said, "Why all this weeping? You are breaking my heart! I am ready not only to be jailed at Jerusalem but even to die for the sake of the Lord Jesus."

Paul was not dissuaded. They were weeping, which shows the earnestness of their concern and plea. Paul even says, "You are breaking my heart!" The Greek word, here translated as "breaking" literally means "crushing." They were trying to dissuade him, they were causing him to lose courage, and shake his resolution, by working on his fears.

I’m reminded of when Jesus told His disciples He must go to Jerusalem to suffer and be killed and Peter said, "Never Lord, this will never happen to you." And Jesus said,

**Matt 16:23 NIV**

"Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."

This is how Paul was feeling. Yet, Paul says the issue is not what might be done to him at Jerusalem, the issue is will he obey the Holy Spirit. I am ready not only to be bounded and jailed, but also to die at Jerusalem for the sake of the Lord Jesus. That was the name he once cursed at Jerusalem. Now He was ready to die for it.

## 3. Christian Consecration (v14)

When it was clear that we couldn't persuade him, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."

When the Gentile believers, and Paul’s friends, saw he couldn’t be persuaded to change his mind, they gave up pleading with him and said as he was saying all along, "The Lord’s will be done." They were saying, you are in the Lord’s hands, let Him handle the situation, His will be done.

This was it; this was the secret to Paul’s courage. He was in such union with God that He could say, your will is mine.

The secret to power and blessing is in living union with the Spirit of the Lord Jesus. I know that He is able to carry out His will and His will is mine.

Can you say that you are living, “Lord your will be done”?

Jesus is with us, He dwells in us, and Jesus will never leave us. You are in Him, He is in you. Remember who you are in Christ. If He is in you than you don't have to strive to get faith, or grace, or power, or peace, it is in you, because He is in you; Trust not strive.

Can you say, I am dead, dead to my old ways, Christ lives in me, and I live by faith in Him. Don't strive, rest. He is not far off you live in Him. We should never be conscious of not abiding in Christ.

Jesus satisfies the deep thirst of our soul. Jesus can meet any and every need. Trials yes, outward body dying yes, but inner spirit renewed every day. Facing difficulties yes, but He gives grace. In confusion He gives guidance, in difficulty grace, in trials strength. He is in us, that means His resources are ours.

Yield your life to Jesus: “Lord, your will be done.”

This must always be the conclusion to which committed, consecrated Christians come. After all has been said, after all the discussion is ended, this is the final word; “The Lord's will be done.”

Paul had avoided trouble, persecution, and death before. He had to flee to save his life before. He had avoided confrontation and imprisonment before...so why not now? The answer is pure and simple, Paul knew God wanted him to go. Paul went to Jerusalem because he knew that he had to go because God wanted him to. “The Lord's will be done.”

No one likes painful situations, but a faithful disciple wants above all else to please God. Paul was not ignoring the warnings. He was not suicidal. Paul simply accepted that the difficulties he might face were outweighed by the ultimate issue — the will of God. And he knew God was with Him. And finally his friends also resigned themselves to this: “The Lord's will be done.”

Here is the answer to an attitude of fear, anxiety, depression, cowardice, replace it with this attitude instead: “The Lord's will be done.”

Why was Jesus able to go to the cross? Because He lived: “Your will be done.” He knew the good that would come of the cross. So in spite of the suffering He prayed:

**Matt 26:39**

“Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”

How could Paul and Silas sing praise to God in a prison cell? Because they lived, “The Lord's will be done.” Paul is the one who wrote:

**Rom 8:28**

God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God.

Oh, if we would just surrender to God's Spirit. If we would just let Him take over our lives. If we would believe He is in us, always with us, and He is all we need. If we could only believe God is good, then even when things don't go as we want we would trust Him. If we would only live "The Lord's will be done."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SiYAUNJPrMU>