

Digging Deeper: Acts 21:1–40

Sermon Series: Truth/Consequence

Written by Rick Noonan (Elder at MACC)

Day 1

Pray to God, confess your sins, and ask for His help. As you dig deeper into His word this week, consider using a journal to write down the ideas and questions He has for you as you study. Read Acts 21:1-40. In verses 4 and 10 Paul's followers are hearing from the Holy Spirit and are concerned about Paul's safety. What does Paul do next that convinces him and them to continue to Jerusalem? Does this mean the Holy Spirit was wrong? What can we learn from this?

Day 2

Pray to God about what he wants you to learn as you study in His word digging deeper into the verses from Sunday's message. Again, read Acts 21:1-40. In verses 8-9, we learn about Phillip (the same Philip mentioned in 6:5 and 8:26) and his family. Phillip's daughters were prophets. Yes, women (actively delivering God's work) prophesied God's messages to His followers. Check out other examples of godly women doing God's work for His church; Acts 2:17, Philippians 4:3, Exodus 15:20, Judges 4:4, 2 Kings 22:14, Nehemiah 6:14, Isaiah 8:3, Luke 2:36-38.

Day 3

Pray to God as you learn from His word today. Is there someone you need to reconnect with whom you haven't spoken to in a long time? Send them a text, give them a call, share an encouraging word, and ask them how they are doing and what you can do for them. Read Acts 21:1-40. In verse 20 Paul is talking with his followers, helping them with an observation, following Jewish law, and also following Gentile Christian teachings from Jesus. What does Paul say for them to do? Why do you think he suggested they do this? What can we learn here and how do we apply this in our lives today?

Day 4

Find a quiet place to settle your body, mind, and spirit. Pray for God's help during this digging deeper study time. Write down what the Holy Spirit brings to your heart and mind. Write everything down in your journal for reflection and study. Read Acts 21:1-40. In verse 30 we learn there is a huge riot of people trying to kill Paul. In verse 33 the Roman commander dispatches officers to calm the situation. Roman commanders oversaw multiple officers/centurions, and we read that the commander deployed centurion(s) plural. A Roman centurion was an officer typically in charge of 100 soldiers (it shares the Latin term centum or century meaning 100 years). How large of a mob do you think it was that wanted to kill Paul? How many soldiers do you think it took to quell the crowd and arrest Paul?

Day 5

Pray for others in your life. Ask God how is He nudging you to come alongside them with kindness, compassion, and joy. Read Acts 21:1-40. The commander could not find out the truth of the matter amongst the confusion of the riot. What does Paul do in verse 37? Why does the commander ask if he knows how to speak Greek? What does the commander agree to do next? Speaking in Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic, what does this tell the commander about Paul? What does this tell the crowd about Paul?