

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Lesson #20 -Predetermined Mindset

Scripture Reading: Acts 21:8-14

Introduction:

1. The most powerful weapon on earth is a focused mind!
2. We must press on to our eternal goal in the midst of trials and tribulations, just as Paul exemplified.
3. In this lesson we will consider the power of determination

I. PAUL'S DETERMINATION

A. THE WARNING HE RECEIVED -21:1-12

1. The Spirit warned Paul -20:22-24
 - a. Note: He warned Paul, He did not forbid Paul of going to Jerusalem.
 - b. Earlier the Spirit did forbid Paul to travel in Asia and Bithynia -Ac 16:6, 7
2. The disciples warned Paul through the Spirit -21:4, 5
3. The prophet Agabus warned Paul -21:10-12

B. PAUL'S REACTION

1. Paul was moved by their concern for his well-being, but not persuaded to change course
2. He was ready to be bound and to die for the cause of Jesus
 - a. His life was not dear to him -Ac 20:24
 - b. He lived for Christ; death was gain -Ph 1:19-21
 - c. As the end was approaching, he did not display fear, but hope -2Ti 4:6-8

II. OUR DETERMINATION

A. THE TYPES OF SUFFERING WE ENDURE

1. Rejection
 - a. Rejection from family -Mt 19:27-30
 - b. Rejection from friends -1Pe 4:3, 4
 - c. Rejection from prospects -Mt 10:14
2. Mockery
 - a. The way the insulted Christ was actually complimentary
 - i. Friend of sinners
 - ii. He saved other, He Himself He cannot save. (Change "cannot" to "would not" and you can see our powerful loving Savior!)
 - b. They call Christians "Narrow minded". Compare -Mt 7:13, 14
 - c. They say Christians use too many Scriptures
 - i. No one will receive an unfavorable judgment for that! -Jn 12:48; 1Pe 4:11; 1Co 9:16
 - ii. Paul was mocked for too much study -Ac 26:24

B. OUR REACTION TO SUFFERING

1. Expect it -2Ti 3:12
2. Rejoice in it -Mt 5:10-12
3. Glorify God in it -1Pe 4:16; Jn 21:18, 19

Conclusion:

1. We do not know what is ahead for us on the journey to eternity.
 2. We do know the necessity of remaining faithful to God to the very end -Re 2:10; Mt 10:22
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