



Fully Surrendered

Acts 21 | Ryan Pfeiffer | October 4, 2026

INTRO. We are in the last leg of our journey through Acts

Last week Paul gave us a powerful metaphor to frame our study— my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace. (Acts 20:24)

We all have a race to run... a task... purpose Jesus has given us... to testify

But when the race we run gets hard we can get thrown off course.

In today’s passage, Acts 21, we see Paul arrive in Jerusalem... He brings a gift he’s collected from the churches throughout Greece and Asia...

But while he’s there he is mobbed by a crowd of Jewish believers... they beat him/ try to kill him.. he experiences... rejection, opposition, pain...

Whoa where’s God? Why is God allowing this? Did I make a wrong turn!?

We know suffering/ hardship can derail, discourage us from finishing well.

FOCUS. How can we find the strength of faith to STAY the course when it gets hard?

Let’s go back in Ch21 and learn from Paul as he approaches Jerusalem...

STAY CONNECTED. 8 Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. 9 He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

Did you know Paul killed Philip’s friend Stephen & caused Phil to flee!?

- WOW!!! the grace/ unity!

V4 says we sought out the disciples and stayed there... as a regular pattern

As courageous as Paul was he wasn’t a lone ranger...

It’s clear he couldn’t have finished his race alone w/out support.

Paul writes...10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing. 1 Thessalonians 5:11.

1. That’s why Our vision begins... Pursuing Jesus TOGETHER...
2. Linger. Woman... Ryan thank you for calling us to Linger... I’m finally in a group!
3. Encourage one another!!! Encourage more than criticize or give advice!
4. When your race gets hard Resist withdrawing, hiding, pulling back...

STAY DISCERNING. 10 After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 Coming over to us, he took Paul’s belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, “The Holy Spirit says, ‘In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.’” 12 When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

Agabus performs a prophetic enactment... an illustration= 1K words!

As a result all of Paul’s companions plead with/ Paul not to go to Jerusalem

When we face hardships we begin to doubt... am I really called to this? Did I hear God right? Do I have what it takes to see this thru!?

In the face of hardship and pain... the voices of self protection rise up!

Paul Stays Discerning...

- He doesn't dismiss the warnings... Paul has heeded concerns before.

Prov 15:22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

On the one hand we are to lean on others... yet we follow Jesus!

- He checks it against what God has said to him...
Acts 20:22 The Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.
1. Remember God's word: Check it against God's past words to you...
 2. Take Assumptions Captive: Never assume if it's difficult you're off course...
 3. Check your Trust: Where is your trust really shaken? In your abilities, your circumstances, other people?

Hardships break our confidence in our selves so faith in Christ can RISE!

But remember God is in you! With you! Before you! Behind you!

Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 2 Cor 12:9.

For when I am weak, then I am strong. 2 Corinthians 12:10.

STAY SURRENDERED. 13 Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." 14 When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done."

Hardship tempts us to hedge our bets... protect ourselves... to waver...

- Maybe I'm being to radical... about not having sex before marriage.
- Maybe I'm being unwise... by being radically generous
- Me: Maybe I was a fool... for trusting God with my finances!
- Maybe I'm not gifted... to lead others to faith?

The enemy can use hardship to harden our hearts... disillusion us...

1. Because we thought faithfulness would exempt us from suffering...
2. Because our attachment to something is causing us to second guess!
3. There's a cost to our faithfulness we didn't expect!

Notice what helps Paul stay surrendered... v13 ...for the name of the Lord Jesus.

Notice... its not I love being bound... I love the idea of dying!

Paul's not a masochist... he's not looking for hardship...

He's looking at every situation and asking... how can I give glory to Jesus.

THE POWER OF SURRENDER.

It's about moving from a survival mentality to a glorify mentality.

Not simply... how can I survive this... but how can I glorify Jesus in this!?

It elevates your state of mind to the highest level possible...

It transmutes every struggle... every pain... every rejection into glory...

Paul... I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings...
Philippians 3:10.

More than in our healing... Christ is glorified when we suffer & still can say... My God Reigns! My God is with me! Jesus is worthy of it ALL!!!