

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral
Lesson 48 “Getting on with the Plan of God”

I. Introduction - We've been studying thru the book of acts since January of last year. Reason being with all the craziness that has gone on over the last few years, I felt like people need an answer about what to do. The answer about what to do is contained within Acts. We are to do what we are always called to do which make disciples of all nations so God fills the earth with his glory. In this study, we have seen the early church turn the world right side up within a generation by simply proclaiming the word of God, operating in the miraculous, walking in unity, and not living their lives into death.

A. Over the last several weeks we've been studying the Apostle Paul's detour in Jerusalem and Caesarea.

1. Paul disobeyed the prevailing word of God over his life by going to Jerusalem and ministering to the Jews instead of focusing on ministering to the Gentiles. He also overrode 2 prophetic words that warned him about going to Jerusalem.
2. We have seen how Paul's disobedience caused him to suffer unnecessary and sidetracked the ministry he was called to for over 2 years.
3. The lessons to all of us are to obey God so we don't get sidetracked, but if we do God will continue to work things together to bring his original plans to pass in our lives. We saw in Romans 1 that Paul longed to visit the church in Rome. God had always worked in Paul to desire God's plan and even when Paul got off track, God's plan for him didn't change. This is true for each of us as well.

B. Today we are going to talk about “Getting in with the Plan of God.” This is an important message on January 1st because maybe you got off track last year. If so, today God wants you to get on with the plan of God.

II. Getting on with the Plan of God

A. **Acts 26:24-32**

1. We looked last time at Paul's testimony he shared before Herod Agrippa who was the Roman King over Israel during this time frame.
2. Paul was so persuasive, Herod almost converted to Christianity. The key to being convincing is to first be convinced and Paul was convinced God had a purpose for his life. This helped him endure hardship and persevere so he could see God's vision for His life come to pass.
3. Herod would have set Paul free but Because Paul had appealed to Caesar, Herod sent him to Rome, which was ultimately God's plan for his life.

B. **Acts 27:1-32**

1. Paul was given a lot of favor by Julius the centurion who allowed Paul to go to his friends and receive care.
2. Most likely this voyage was in October because it would have been after the fast for the day of atonement that would have been October 5th. Early fall was the most dangerous time to sail in the Mediterranean Sea.
3. **Verse 10** The word perceive comes from Greek word that means to discern or see. Paul had a premonition this trip was going to have adversity and the the captain should change course. Important principle - just because we are getting on with the plan of God doesn't mean we can set things on cruise control and not pay attention to the Holy Spirit along the way
 - a. Jesus promised the Holy Spirit will show us things to come - **John 16:13** Andrew Wommack Pritchett, Colorado story about installing the wrong elder.
 - b. Notice this came when Paul came off a fast. Fasting helps us get sensitive to the spirit of God.
4. The centurion and crew didn't listen to the Holy Spirit and leaned to natural reasoning - this was gonna lead to major problems.
5. **Verses 13-20 NLT** Because the crew ignored Paul's word, they got caught in a massive storm. We need to obey the prophetic direction we are given. Their disobedience caused them to throw their cargo and tackle overboard and scramble to do whatever they needed to do to survive. The crew eventually gave up all hope. Ex: king Josiah, Pharaoh Necho
6. **Verses 21-32** In the midst of the chaos Paul arose and declared, "everything is gonna be alright."
 - a. Paul was able to do this because he continued in a lifestyle of prayer and fasting. Some people fast for a breakthrough; that's good. It's better however to fast into a lifestyle where we are more sensitive to the spirit of God than the natural world around us.
 - c. Out of Paul's prayer and fasting he was able to give direction to those on the ship and keep the others alive (warning not to get in the skiff).
 - d. This is a picture of how God is calling all of us to live. He wants others to be attracted to our light in the midst of their chaos so they can receive of the wisdom of God.

III. Conclusion - God wants us to get on with the plan of God in 2023. If you don't know what to do, do the last thing you had clarity about. As you set course with the plan of God, be sensitive to the spirit so he can show problems or opportunities ahead.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer