

# Second Pilgrimage to Jerusalem

Acts 21:1-17

From	To	Notes
Miletus	Cos	Overnight layover
Cos	Rhodes	Stay in ship
Rhodes	Patara	Final ship destination
Change Ship		
Patara	Tyre	Ship to unload 7-day layover
Tyre	Ptolomais	1-day layover
Ptolomais	Caesarea	A few days layover
Continue to Jerusalem by Land		
Caesarea	Jerusalem	Staying in Mnason of Cyprus House Warm welcome by the brethren



- What happened in Tyre?
  - The ship's cargo was going to Tyre, so the cargo was unloaded there.
  - Finding the disciples
  - Stayed there with them for seven days
  - They told Paul, through the Spirit, not to go up to Jerusalem

- What happened in Tyre? (continued)
  - After the seven days, Paul and his friends had to leave.
  - The disciples, their wives and children walked with them to the port
  - They knelt and prayed together when they were out of the city on the shore.
  - Paul and friends boarded the ship and the disciples and their families returned home.

- What happened in Tyre? (continued)

Several things to point out:

- The vibrancy of the early church:
  - They were gifted with prophets ( And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;" Ephesians 4:11) and they spoke up, making public what Paul was anxious about.
- Hospitality: They hosted them for seven days.

- What happened in Tyre? (continued)

Several things to point out:

- They prayed together (disciples, their wives and their children) with Paul and his friends.
- They showed care when they didn't leave until they saw them board the ship:  
“...we boarded the ship, and they returned home”

- What happened in Ptolomais?
  - They greeted the brethren there too.
  - Luke doesn't tell us the content of their conversations
  - Sometimes engaging in a conversation that distracts us from the preoccupations at hand can be helpful.
  - It can allow for a mental break and deepen a relationship.



- What happened in Ptolomais? (continued)
  - They know Paul is going to Jerusalem
  - They would also understand the risk and the suffering that may be awaiting to Paul.
  - Sometimes one simply needs the gift of a silent presence. No conversation may be necessary.

- What happened in Ptolomais? (continued)

What do we see here?

- Hospitality
- Fellowship

- What happened in Caesarea?
- They stayed in the house of Philip the evangelist
- Philip was one of the seven (Acts 6:5-7)
- Philip had three daughter who were prophetesses.  
(“There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” Galatians 3:28).

- What happened in Caesarea? (continued)
- Agabus: a prophet from Judea prophesied that Paul would be bound with chains in Jerusalem.
- He tied himself, hands and feet, with Paul's belt.
  - “So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him to the gentiles”

- What happened in Caesarea? (continued)
  - Reaction to this prophetic voice
    - Don't go to Jerusalem
  - Paul's response: "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus"
  - Their response to Paul: "The will of the Lord be done"

- What happened in Caesarea? (continued)
  - Paul knew by the Spirit that suffering waited for him in Jerusalem:  
“...now I go bound in the Spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me” (Acts 20:22-23)
  - The Holy Spirit worked and let them know the things that will happen to Paul while binding Paul to Jerusalem.

- Sometimes following the Lord Jesus is risky:
- Many people in other parts of the world suffer persecution for the cause of Christ.
- I can think of Mirea and Graciella, who in their teens risked everything to follow Jesus.
- I can think of a young man, Max Vasquez (a friend and college of my parents), who was killed for preaching the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

- A terrible irony:
  - Suffering for the ones I just mentioned didn't come from atheists and/or pagans, it came from others who professed a Christian faith.
  - There is danger when Christians mix national identity with the Christian faith.



- What happened in Jerusalem?
- After a few days in Caesarea, they pack up and head towards Jerusalem.
- Other joined them.
  - One of them an early disciple from Cyprus: Mnason of Cyprus.
  - Mnason gave them a place to stay in Jerusalem.
- The brethren in Jerusalem received them gladly.

Concluding:

- What do we see (or should I ask what do I see and share it with you?)
- I see a Christian Community that loves and supports Paul in his suffering.
- Paul is traveling with great anxiety and needs the support of the community.
  - Paul actively sought out the disciples: He needed them now!

## Concluding: (continued)

- Do we seek love and support in our community of faith? Are we willing to offer it and to receive it?
- Hospitality: the brethren welcomed them in their homes, families and communities.
- Fellowship and love: they were actively engaged in Paul's suffering and ultimately supported even after they felt he should not go to Jerusalem ("The will of the Lord be done")

## Concluding: (continued)

- A church that prayed: They went out with Paul to the shore and knelt there and prayed.
- A vibrant church filled with the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit very active in their communities.

Concluding: (continued)

- May the Lord grant us these gifts always and that when we need these gifts for support and encouragement, they are available to us for they are embedded in our Church and our identity in Christ.