

Human Advice vs. Divine Direction **Acts 21:1-16**

Advice from believers: Don't go! 21:1-5

- ❖ Paul sails (Luke too, "we") towards Jerusalem and spends a full week in Tyre, where the disciples there try repeatedly to talk him out of going to Jerusalem.
- ❖ Their advice given *through the Spirit* is not prohibitive but predictive in view of 19:21, 20:22-24. However, they take such a prediction as a warning not to go.

Advice from more believers: Don't go! 21:6-12

- ❖ Philip the deacon (6:5) is now Philip the evangelist (8:40) with four daughters who are prophetesses, yet they aren't noted as prophesying as Agabus does.
- ❖ Agabus and Paul were friends. Recall earlier Agabus prophesied of a famine, which resulted in Paul going to Jerusalem with relief funds from the Gentile believers in Antioch, 11:27-30. One might expect Agabus to favor Paul's trip.
- ❖ Again, Agabus' prophecy is only predictive and not prohibitive (as at Tyre).
- ❖ What causes people to oppose Paul's trip? Often this is the case with us too.

Decision based on divine direction: I'm still going to go. 21:13-16

- ❖ Who was right or wrong here?
- ❖ Later it's clear that Paul's trip to Jerusalem was not nearly as disastrous as so many believers thought it would be. Things worked out, see 23:11, 27:23.

What would not be an appropriate application from all this?

However, what must we always remember when it comes time to make a big decision?

