

RUSSELL SANDERS

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THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 40

THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY PART 5

FROM MILETUS TO CAESAREA

Upon leaving Miletus, Paul and his company took a ship to the coastal port city of Tyre in Syria (ancient Phoenicia). Tyre had the greatest fleet of ships in the Mediterranean for many centuries, making it a prosperous trade center. The Phoenicians were known to be great sailors. Paul's ship was taking cargo to Tyre. Brief stops along the way were made at Coos, Rhodes, and Patara. (Acts 21.)

They found disciples of "The Way" at Tyre, so they spent seven days there with them. They bonded so well that when Paul's group was ready to leave by ship that the whole families of the disciples, their wives and children, all accompanied Paul to the ship. They all kneeled on the seashore and prayed together.

After departing, they stopped for one day at Ptolemais in Phoenicia to fellowship with the believers there, then proceeded on to Caesarea in Judea. Caesarea had been the home of Cornelius whom Peter had converted about twenty years earlier. It was currently the home of the evangelist Philip, one of the original seven deacons appointed in the early church by the apostles. Paul's party stayed many days at Philip's house as the believers congregated there.

It is noted in Acts 21:9 that Philip had four unmarried daughters who operated in the gift of prophecy, or maybe they might have been prophets? These four were clearly being used mightily by God. Don't let the male chauvinists tell you that only men prophesied and not women. God and Holy Spirit will use whomsoever He chooses as long as they are a willing vessel.

Tomorrow we will see Paul's experience in Caesarea.