

RUSSELL SANDERS

8-11-2021

THE APOSTLE PAUL – LESSON 41

THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY PART 6

AGABUS PROPHECY

As Paul made his way to Jerusalem, he first stopped in Caesarea and stayed many days at the house of Philip, the evangelist and deacon. All the believers met there with him.

One of them was a well-known prophet named Agabus. The Holy Ghost showed Agabus what awaited Paul at Jerusalem. To illustrate the message (Acts 21:10-11), he took Paul's "girdle" (belt or sash), then Agabus bound (tied up) his own feet and hands with it. He said that in like manner the Jews would bind Paul and deliver him into the hands of the gentiles as a prisoner.

Everyone then pleaded with Paul to not go to Jerusalem. Paul's answer in verse 13 was that he was willing to suffer whatever might befall him at Jerusalem, even to the point of death if need be.

When they ascertained his resolve to go, they ceased urging and submitted Paul to the Lord's will. The prophecy was not given to turn Paul away from his destiny, but to let him know of the hardship to come so he could be spiritually and physically prepared to endure it.

The people's initial reaction to Agabus' prophecy was an emotional one based on their love for their brother, which was a natural act of human compassion. This they had to set aside and let God's will take its course with Paul.

Our will and desires often get in the way of what God desires to accomplish through us or our loved ones. We need to tune our ears to Holy Spirit rather than our own human spirit.