

Readings

Scripture

¹And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. ²And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. ³When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo. ⁴And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. ⁵When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed ⁶and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

⁷When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. ⁸On the next day we departed and came to Caesarea, and we entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. ⁹He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied. ¹⁰While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. ¹¹And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ¹²When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. ¹³Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." ¹⁴And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, "Let the will of the Lord be done."

¹⁵After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁶And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge.

¹⁷When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly.
- Acts 21:1-17 (English Standard Version)

Sermon Outline

Two Kinds of Journeys
Acts 21:1-17

The Acts of the Apostles
Stephen Baldwin

How do we walk in faith when the way forward is uncertain?

By remembering and practicing...

The geography of the ordinary journey of life. (Acts 21:1-6)

Three things we observe show that the ordinary details of faithful living are never insignificant

- Travel
 - Hospitality
 - Prayer
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The shape of the journey in the Spirit. (Acts 21:7-17)

Three things we observe show that the big decisions of faithful living are often fraught with danger, uncertainty and sadness

- Conflicting counsel
 - Relational Ties
 - Isolation
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Reflection Questions

- What is your view of the meaning and significance of your day to day routines: housework, commute to work, office, or classroom?
- Is anything in your day "throw away" - why or why not?
- When you make a cup of coffee in the morning (or tea if you prefer) how do you think Christianly about everything that led up to your enjoying the hot, refreshing beverage?
- When you make plans to travel somewhere, vacation or otherwise, how does that fit into the larger purpose of your life...or does it?
- When you have a big decision, what role do your trusted, believing friends play in it?
- Will a godly decision always be a "win/win"?
- Have you ever made a decision, believing it to be the Father's will, that meant someone you loved was disappointed? How did you respond?