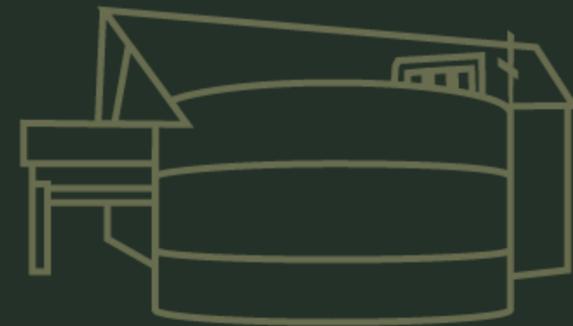


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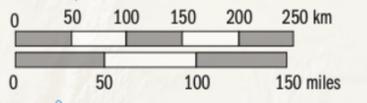


The Story of the Church

Paul's Missionary Travels and Journey to Rome



- ← First Missionary Journey (AD 46-48)
- ← Second Missionary Journey (AD 49-52)
- ← Third Missionary Journey (AD 53-57)
- ← Journey to Rome (AD 59-60)
- Roman Empire in c. AD 50





²² "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³ I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

³⁶ When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷ They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. ³⁸ What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

¹ After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to Kos. The next day we went to Rhodes and from there to Patara. ² We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went on board and set sail. ³ After sighting Cyprus and passing to the south of it, we sailed on to Syria. We landed at Tyre, where our ship was to unload its cargo.

⁴ We sought out the disciples there and stayed with them seven days. **Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem.** ⁵ When it was time to leave, we left and continued on our way. All of them, including wives and children, accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray. ⁶ After saying goodbye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home.

ACTS 21:4-6 NIV

¹⁰ After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea.

¹¹ Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"

¹² When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

ACTS 21:12 NIV

¹³ Then Paul answered, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” ¹⁴ When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, “The Lord’s will be done.” ¹⁵ After this, we started on our way up to Jerusalem.

What we see in Paul:

1. Heard God tell him to go.
2. Warned by others not to go.
3. Was not afraid to sacrifice everything.
4. Pursued holiness and righteousness over comfort.

"Trouble arises when the desire for safety and security becomes the dominant theme of our lives. When a relaxation mentality supplants our attentiveness to God's call on our lives. Jesus took time off, but he didn't come to earth to relax. He came for a specific mission and he left us with one as well."

-Louis Giglio

"Commitment even amidst discomfort; faithfulness even amidst disappointment – this is what being the people of God has always been about... The comforting Gospel of Jesus Christ leads us to live uncomfortable lives for him. It's about recovering a willingness to do hard things, to embrace hard truths, to do life with hard people for the sake and the glory of the One who did the hardest thing."

-Brent McCracken

"The form of life Jesus offers his followers is not one of social integration but a scandal to the priestly and political establishment. It is a question of being homeless, propertyless, peripatetic, celibate, socially marginal, disdainful of kinsfolk, averse to material possessions, a friend of outcasts and pariahs, a thorn to the side of the Establishment and a scourge of the rich and powerful."

-Terry Eagleton

"Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate."

-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"There's this idea that to live out of conformity with how I feel is hypocrisy; but that is a wrong definition of hypocrisy. To live out of conformity to what I believe is hypocrisy. To live in conformity to what I believe, in spite of what I feel, isn't hypocrisy; it's integrity."

-Erik Thoennes, *Biola University Professor*

21 From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

MATTHEW 16:21 NIV

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” 23 Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

MATTHEW 16:22-23 NIV

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

MATTHEW 16:24-26 NIV

⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ

PHILIPPIANS 3:8 NIV

¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

JOHN 15:13 NIV

¹¹ They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

REVELATION 12:11 NIV

Paul willingly endured discomfort because he embraced:

1. Suffering
2. Surrender
3. Dependence
4. Sacrifice
5. Discipline

What can we learn from Paul's actions?

1. Seek wise counsel, and ultimately listen to the Lord
2. Pursue righteousness and holiness over comfort
 - Confess where you are allowing comfort to guide your decisions.
3. Submit our will to the will of God
 - Embrace the concepts of suffering, surrender, dependence, sacrifice, and discipline

¹ Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

ROMANS 12:1-2 NIV

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too.

¹ Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

² I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."