

“GOOD PEOPLE GETTING IN THE WAY”

Acts 21:7-14

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INTRODUCTION

What will it take to stop you from fulfilling God’s plan for your life?

Many are hindered by comforts and conveniences, laziness, loss of zeal to please the Lord, bitterness, anger, troubles, persecutions, worldly friends, unsaved family members, etc.

What will stop you from doing what you know God wants you to do? One thing we often don’t anticipate is that **good and godly people might try to hinder us from doing God’s will**. Sometimes even our spouses, our parents, our children, our church family, our Christian friends.

They may not intentionally try to keep you from doing right; they may have good intentions. But they still may find themselves the unwilling instruments in the hands of the evil one to keep you from doing right.

Here, Paul was discouraged from going to Jerusalem by many well-meaning believers who loved him deeply.

YOU MUST LISTEN TO AND FOLLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH HIS WORD IN DOING THE WILL OF GOD.

Like Paul said in another place, don’t be dissuaded by godly people nor even by an “angel from heaven”—like the old prophet from Bethel in the book of Kings (I K. 13) who dissuaded the “man of God.”

- I. GOOD FELLOWSHIP WON’T STOP YOU (7-9).
 - A. Believers at Ptolemais (7)
 - B. Philip the evangelist at Caesarea (8)
 - C. Philip’s four virgin daughters who were prophetesses
 1. Virgins—no special order or vows
 2. Prophetesses—no conflict between I Cor. 11:5; 14:34-36; and I Tim. 2:11-12
- II. GOOD BUT MISGUIDED INTENTIONS MIGHT STOP YOU (10-14).
 - A. A prophet named Agabus—cf. 11:28
 1. His outward demonstration (11a)
 2. His pronouncement (11b)

- Is NT prophecy different from OT prophecy and not guaranteed to be accurate?
 - Does this make allowance for continued “prophecy” in our day with diminished accuracy and importance?
 - Does Agabus here tell Paul not to go to Jerusalem?
- B. Paul’s traveling companions exhort—beg—him not to go to Jerusalem (12).
- C. The local Christians beg Paul in the same way (12).
- III. GODLY RESOLVE WILL NOT BE DISSUADED (13-14)
- A. Efforts will be made to change your mind.
1. Emotionalism
 2. Pounding persuasion to stop—“breaking my heart”
- B. You Must stand your ground like Paul
1. Ready to be bound—go through privations and suffering [cf. Jesus in His resolve in going to Jerusalem.]
 2. Ready to die for the name of the Lord Jesus—“to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain”.
- C. You must seek to persuade others to submit to God’s will (14).
“The will of the Lord be done!”

CONCLUSION

What is most important to you? The pleasure of your friends, your family, or the Pleasure of God?

Jesus said, “If any one comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and his mother, and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes even his own life, he cannot be my disciple” (Lk. 14:26).

Who or what is most important to you? Sometimes you must make tough choices and might even have to give up your loved ones in order to follow the Lord.

Sometimes you will be misunderstood even by your Christian brothers and sisters.

You must obey God rather than men.

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