



HOW THE GOSPEL GOT OUT

### **Back in Jerusalem (Acts 21:1 – 22:29)**

“The Messiah is the goal, the completion, the crown of it all, bringing to its destination the long, sad story of God’s people, taking upon himself all the anger, all the fear, all the bitterness of the centuries, and making an end of it for all except those who are now so identified with and by that anger that they dare not let it go for fear that they won’t know who they are any more.”  
(N T Wright)

#### **Turning Towards the End**

- Paul intended to be in Jerusalem for Pentecost (Acts 20:16)

#### **Paul and Agabus (21:10-16)**

- A prophet reveals an image of Paul’s future
- Prophecy had been used by God to guide Paul many times
- One prophetic picture – two responses

#### **Paul and the Jewish Believers (21:17-26)**

- The Jerusalem Church had been flourishing
- Many Jewish Christians who were confused about Paul
- Zealots to the left of me, Jokers to the right! Here I am, stuck in the middle of Jews!

#### **Paul and the Jewish crowds**

- “He’s breaking our Laws and ruining our religion!”
- Paul saved by the Romans
- Addresses the Jews as a Jew and the Romans as a Roman



## Paul's Story and Ours

1. Like Paul, \_\_\_\_\_
  - He knew who he was ultimately \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ comes from Jesus alone
  - 1 Corinthians 9:19-23
  
2. Like Paul, \_\_\_\_\_
  - These are my \_\_\_\_\_
  - Philippians 3:4-11
  - We don't \_\_\_\_\_, but we aren't \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Like Paul, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Everything Paul does relates back to \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_ with Jesus is where life and ministry are defined
  - This is what shapes \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Like Paul, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Most Christians today live with a \_\_\_\_\_
  - We are called to \_\_\_\_\_
  - We serve \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_

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## Questions for Discussion and Further Reflection

1. Was there a particular part of the sermon that grabbed your attention? What was it? Why was it significant to you?
2. Read through the quote from N T Wright at the top of page 1. Spend some time together dissecting it and looking at the implications for us today.
3. What would it look like to live as Citizens of Heaven? What stops us?
4. Do you know someone who lives their life defined by their past (good or bad)? How does their experience help them follow Jesus better? Where does it hinder their walk?
5. Have you ever had a personal encounter with Jesus? What happened? How did it change you?
6. What is the difference between living a relationship with the rules and a living relationship with Jesus? How are you bound by rules? Do you want to be free?
7. Spend some time together in silence, listening for the Spirit who wants to speak to you? After a while, share any impressions or words God gives you. Then pray for each other.