

Acts 21:1-14

*The Difficulties of a “Road Show”*

In this passage of Scripture, Luke is describing the difficulties of bringing the gospel to the world. First we see that in traveling to the various newly established churches, the disciples had the very real and distressing task of “saying goodbye” in order to move on to the next mission trip. Luke said that “we tore ourselves away” from the brethren. It is true that the disciples were known by their love of one another, but they were also driven by the love of those whom they did not know – those who needed the gospel of salvation. In order to fulfill their mission, they had to leave behind those whom they loved.

We also note that they had some lengthy journeys by ship. In those days, travel by ship was dangerous and very uncomfortable. Accommodations for passengers was shared with the various cargoes, animals (invited and uninvited), and perhaps some unsavory characters – not your typical Princess cruise ship!

The missionaries were led by the Spirit in clear and specific ways. They were open to the Spirit’s leading. Indeed, their very lives were dependent upon such leading. Yet Paul and his companions were also courageous in the presence of adversity and danger. Nothing could stop them from their mission. Paul had said in his letter to the Corinthians that he was “compelled” to complete his mission for Christ. He really could not stop himself because his life was defined by his mission – to win the lost and to introduce them to his Savior, Jesus.

We all need to look at what drives us. What is the thing that gets us up every day and energizes us to put our best energy on the line? If we are not compelled by the love of Christ to spend our best energy serving Him, we are just marking time. If we are using our talents, experiences and gifts for God’s purpose, no matter what our “job”, only then does our life have real meaning.

*Prayer: Father, we thank you for the examples of Paul and the early disciples. Their lives were on the line so that generations to come, like ours right now, may know you. Help us to rely on your Spirit to invigorate our hearts toward your purposes. Amen.*