

## Presentation 8—Acts 21-23

### Paul in Jerusalem then to Caesarea



The Final Part of Paul's Third Missionary from Miletus to Jerusalem (Map: Public Domain)

- Acts 21.1-15—*Paul travels from Miletus to Jerusalem.* Paul sails extensively from Miletus, to Tyre, then travels with companions and the 'we' of Luke to Ptolemais, arriving at Caesarea. Meets Philip and his daughter who are prophets and the prophet Agabus. Paul is determined to go to Jerusalem, not matter what awaits.
- Acts 21.16-39— *Paul arrives in Jerusalem—his two trials.* Paul recounts the success amongst the Gentiles, and is affirmed by the Jerusalem leadership. A crowd violates Paul, rescued by the tribune and brought into the barracks (not for the last time!). Paul is recognised as a Greek speaker, and a citizen from Tarsus.
- Acts 21.40-23.11—*Paul's Apologia.* Paul speaks to the crowd in Hebrew, tells his story of his attraction to Jesus, and creates confusion and a riot between the Pharisees and Sadducees. The tension that results gets the Tribune to

haul Paul back into the barracks. Paul identifies himself as a Roman citizen. God commissions Paul to witness to the Gospel in Rome (23.11)

- Acts 23.12-35—The Plot against Paul and his transition to Caesarea. Paul's nephew learns of an attempt on Paul's life. The tribune sends Paul under a massive military guard to Caesarea, to Herod's praetorium, to await a further trial.
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#### FOR FURTHER REFLECTION & CONVERSATION

- In this section of Acts, Paul continues to honour his pledge to go to Jerusalem despite what might await him. What lies at the heart of your commitment as a contemporary disciple?
- In Jerusalem, Paul offers a summary of his life and his call from Jesus? How would you sum up your faith journey? What have been its high points?
- Luke depicts Paul with many talents: a polyglot, an ability to hold and respond to accusations, to cleverly create confusion amongst those who hold power. What are your talents and gifts?

#### IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT PRESENTATION

- The next session will focus on Acts 24-26. In preparation for this session, spend time with this section of the *Acts of the Apostles*.

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