

Rome or Bust!: The Winding Journey from Jerusalem to Rome

Building His Church—The Commission Wall: Part 8

| May 8, 2022

- **Acts 22:21-23** *“Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you **far away to the Gentiles.**’”*
- **Acts 23:11** *The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so **you must also testify in Rome.**”*
- **Acts 23:27** *“This man was seized by the Jews and they were about to kill him, but I came with my troops and rescued him, for I had learned that **he is a Roman citizen.**”*
- **Acts 24:27** *When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, **he left Paul in prison.***
- **Acts 25:16** *“I told them that it is not the **Roman custom** to hand over anyone before they have faced their accusers and have had an opportunity to **defend themselves against the charges.**”*
- **Acts 26:32** *Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if **he had not appealed to Caesar.**”*
- **Acts 27:1** *When it was decided that we would **sail for Italy**, Paul and some other prisoners were handed over to a centurion named Julius, who belonged to the Imperial Regiment.*

Why “Rome”?

- 2 Corinthians 5:20-21

Why was this journey to Rome so difficult?

How Commissioned People are Measured:

- God’s commissioned people must move into the heart of the _____
_____.
- God’s commissioned people must run to the _____
_____.

Where is Rome for You?

- How do I prepare for this kind of difficult and winding journey?
- As a commissioned disciple, is this sign on your heart?

Acts 1:8 *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Digging Deeper

(for group study and conversation, and for personal reflection)

This week, in both group conversation AND in personal quiet time and study, consider this very personal question: **What is my “journey to Rome”?**

Biblical overview of God calling people to challenging locations

- Name some people in the Bible who were sent into the middle of the ungodly world.
- How did they act and react to that calling in their lives?

Biblical overview of Paul’s Roman journey in Acts

- Briefly review **Acts 23-28** and highlight some of the significant hurdles Paul had to overcome in order to finally get to Rome.

Read John 17:20-26. How did Jesus pray for his disciples as they faced the challenging world?

QUESTIONS FOR GROUP & PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Why do you think God would send his people into the middle of the mess of the world? Why wouldn't he want to build a wall around us and just keep us in a nice and easy place?
- Where is Rome for me?
- What frightens me about going to Rome?
- How am I being prepared?

Finish your group time by reading and reflecting on this passage:

- **Acts 1:8** *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK’S TEACHING:

- Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
- Read Ephesians 4:1-16