

Together Every Day with God

Reading Schedule

Monday, March 8

Psalm 108
Ephesians 2:1-10
Acts 23:12-22

Tuesday, March 9

Psalm 109
Ephesians 2:11-22
Acts 23:23-35

Wednesday, March 10

Psalm 110
Ephesians 3:1-13
Acts 24:1-9

Thursday, March 11

Psalm 111
Ephesians 3:14-21
Acts 24:10-23

Friday, March 12

Psalm 112
Ephesians 4:1-16
Acts 24:24-27

Saturday, March 13

Psalm 113
Ephesians 4:17-24
Acts 25:1-12

Sunday, March 14

Day of catch-up, reflection,
journaling and prayer

Reflection from the Week

One Mission...

Paul's Heart for Many People

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↔ Describe a time or situation when you were completely misunderstood by a person or a group of people. How did it make you feel? How did you resolve it? What did you learn from it?

As Paul comes to Jerusalem, controversy follows him. To the Jews, Paul has nullified the essential, basic core values of the Jewish faith by saying the law is irrelevant. Their intent is to protect their basic core values, which means silencing Paul. Let's look together at Paul's heart in the midst of rejection and violent attacks by his own people.

📖 **Humility:** Read Acts 21:17-36

- How much of the Jew's perception of Paul do you feel was actually true? Explain.
- What did Paul agree to do at the request of the church elders?
- Why do you think he agreed to do this?
- How do you decide when you should bend for the sake of others, and when you should stand for your principles?

📖 **Boldness:** Read Acts 21:37-22:21

- Under the circumstances, why did Paul think it so important to address this hostile crowd?
- What point of identification does Paul make with his hostile audience? What is he hoping to achieve by doing this?
- Why do you feel he decided to tell his personal faith story instead of preaching a sermon filled with Old Testament Scripture references as he had done in the past with Jewish audiences?
- When do you find your story most effective and helpful to others?
- In three minutes or less, tell your small group, family or friends your faith story.

📖 **Compassion:** Read I Corinthians 9:19-23 and Romans 9:2-5; 10:1.

- Describe Paul's heart in regards to the Jewish people.
- In spite of his deep love and compassion for his people, God sent him to the Gentiles. How do you think this made him feel?
- For what people group has God given you deep compassion: the poor? The homeless? Those in abusive situations? Those caught in an addiction? Those from a specific country or ethnic group? Christians bound by legalism or incomplete theology?
- What barriers are there between you and these groups?
- What "rights" would you be willing to discard to love them?

Soul Training

Prayer: For the purpose of experiencing an interactive friendship with God who gives direction and purpose to my life.

This week pray along with Chad of Lichfield (?-672 AD):

My soul thirsts for You, the living God. As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God.

You pour life into me, giving me speech, sense, desire, giving me thought and action. My fame or repute will be just as You allow: You mark the way before me. As I remember those who have journeyed before me, Lord, teach me the way of their simplicity: strength with humility, at peace in the fear of God. May I also go wherever I am led.

The keeping of Christ about me, the guarding of God with me to possess me, to protect me from drowning and danger and loss, the gospel of the God of grace from brow of head to sole of foot, the gospel of Christ, King of salvation, be as a mantle to my body.

Great God of wisdom, Great God of mercy, give me of Your fullness and of Your guidance at the turning of each pass. On your path, O my God, and not my own, be all my journeying. Rule this heart of mine that it be only Yours. Amen