

The Way of the Early Church, Part 11: Paul's "Triumphal Entry"

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- Make sure everyone knows each other's names. Have everyone share a little about themselves and how life is going right now.
- **The Way of the Early Church**
 - In this series we unlock several powerful eternal principles in order to see God do mighty things!
- **This Week:** Paul's Triumphal Entry
- Paul says goodbye to the Ephesian Elders. **Acts 20:17-28** (Focus on **Acts 20:22-24.**)
 - Paul is compelled by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem.
 - He is warned by the Spirit that hardships and imprisonment await.
 - Paul's focus is not on his own comfort, but on completing the "task." What is the task?
- Agabus, and everyone else, warn Paul not to go to Jerusalem! **Acts 21:3-4, 8-15**
 - The same message from the Spirit had very different interpretations! Why?
 - Paul took the message as "get prepared for" rather than "avoid."
 - Sometimes God's plan isn't for us to avoid the struggle, but to get us through it!
 - Similar situation after the last supper. **Matthew 26:36-46**
 - Why did Jesus have the 3 pray? So they could be prepared to face the trial!
 - Jesus also got prepared. The cup was not going to be taken, but Jesus was going to be strengthened.
- What "task" has the Lord given you?
 - Are there trials involved? How do we win?
 - What stage are you in? Preparing, Beginning, Growing, Healing, Persevering, Resting, Finishing? Do what makes sense to do in your stage. What would that be?
 - God has a calling for all of us. First, to be your best you. Second, God gives us various assignments or tasks to accomplish.
 - 2 sides to that coin. A great calling brings great responsibility.
- Remember what Paul said in **Acts 20:26-27?**
 - What would cause Paul to be guilty?
 - Check out Ezekiel's calling from **Ezekiel 3:16-21.**
 - Wow. God loves the wicked and the backslider enough to judge those who are supposed to warn them but who do not!!
 - What is the "normal" Christian's calling? **2 Corinthians 5:17-21**
 - Christ's Ambassadors!!! That is a high calling!!!!
 - Don't get nervous. You can have it all!
 - A great calling. (Often hidden in normal tasks!)
 - Great faithfulness. This is where you win!
 - Great fruitfulness. It's nice to see the harvest from time to time!!
 - Great reward!
- A great calling brings great responsibility. But great faithfulness to that call brings great reward!!
 - Parable of the Talents.
 - The guy with the 1 Talent didn't do anything. How did that go? **Matthew 25:28-30.** Do you see why? He was not faithful to the call.
 - Did you know that you can be completely free from fear of being rejected by God? It is simple, be faithful to the call! The guys that put their talents to work heard **Matthew 25:23!**
 - Our God is a rewarder! He rewards His good and faithful servants!
- Closing Scripture: **Ephesians 4:1.**
 - Paul didn't see them again, but he wrote to the Ephesians.
 - He told them many things. One of them was to live a life worthy of the calling.
 - I urge you, live a life worthy of the call.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!