

Note: By now, in just about every town along the Syrian coastline, there are young Christian communities whose members Paul calls “disciples.” In Caesarea, Paul meets Deacon Philip. Luke also mentions that Philip had four virgin daughters gifted with prophecy. Perhaps this was to illustrate the literal fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy quoted by Peter at Pentecost: “Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy.” (Acts 2:17). Paul strongly promotes this gift in 1 Corinthians: “Strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts, above all that you may prophesy.” (1 Cor 14:1)

1. When Paul arrived in Caesarea, he stayed at the home of Philip the Evangelist.
 - a. Who was Philip? (Acts 6:2-5)
 - b. What is an evangelist? (CCC429)
 - c. Why would Philip be called an evangelist? (Acts 8:4-9; 26-40)
 - d. *Reflection:* In today’s world, who is called to be an evangelist?
2. *Reflection:* Paul has gotten numerous messages from the Holy Spirit to go quickly to Jerusalem. (Acts 20:22-23) The disciples in Tyre are also getting messages from the Holy Spirit to warn Paul “not to embark for Jerusalem.” (Acts 21:4) Do you think the Holy Spirit sometimes gives mixed messages?
3. Describe the symbolic prophetic act with Paul’s belt performed by the prophet Agabus. (Acts 21:10-11)
 - a. Why were Paul’s companions frightened by the prophecy? (Acts 21:11-12)
 - b. What was Paul’s reaction? (Acts 21:13-14)
4. While Paul was on his missionary journeys, the Christian church in Jerusalem and Judea had converted “many thousands of believers” from among the Jews, all of whom remained “zealous observers of the law.” (Acts 21:20) Paul’s teaching among the gentile converts was in direct conflict with the Mosaic law.
 - a. What did the presbyters suggest as a compromise solution to the conflict for the Jewish converts? (Acts 21:22-24)
 - b. What did the elders or presbyters suggest as a compromise solution for Gentile converts? (Acts 21:25; Acts 15:19-21)
5. How did Paul demonstrate or prove that he, himself, was faithful and observant of the Mosaic law? (Acts 21:23-27; Acts 18:18; Acts 16:1-4)
6. Some of Paul’s familiar enemies spotted him in the temple and started a riot against him.
 - a. Who were these enemies and where did they come from? (Acts 21:27-29)
 - b. Who was with Paul that these enemies would recognize him? (Acts 21:29)
 - c. What did Paul’s enemies say to stir up the anger of the crowd? (Acts 21:28-30)

Note: A centurion controlled or was in charge of 100 men, and a tribune was in charge or had control over an entire legion of soldiers--4500 to 6000 men.

7. What or who saved Paul from being beaten to death by the angry mob? (Acts 21:31-33)
8. How did Paul’s fluency in the Greek language enable his release from the soldiers? (Acts 21:37-40)
9. The mob had followed Paul to the military compound still shouting, “Away with him.” From where did Paul give his speech to the angry Jews? (Acts 21:40)