

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 21 1-14



Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.  
Psalm 23:4

## **Praising:**

Onward, therefore, Christian pilgrims,  
onward, with the cross our aid;  
bear its shame, and fight its battle,  
till we rest beneath its shade.

## **Reading:**

Acts 21:1-14  
Paul sets sail for Jerusalem

Paul seems to hitch whatever ride he can on his long and winding journey back to Jerusalem. The stops and starts afford him two significant encounters. The Christian friends at Tyre where Paul is forced to stay for seven days have a clear spiritual sense that danger awaits the apostle in Jerusalem and so he should not go there. Much the same message awaits Paul in Caesarea. Philip had been one of

the original seven men commissioned for ministry which included the martyred Stephen. When the prophet Agabus joins them he illustrates the fate awaiting Paul visually, with the aid of Paul's belt. While the advice he's receiving reflects the love and affection in which he is held, Paul puts it to them that as a follower of Jesus Christ his own personal welfare is not top priority.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Lord we pray for strength to face the fears and threats of life

- as our hearts pound before the situations we really dread, be with us by your Spirit
- as we confront our toughest problems, speak to us the gentle words of Christ
- as we long for an obstacle to be finally overcome, inspire us by the victory of the cross

Father: in you alone every difficulty can be faced. Remind me of that the next time I dodge and postpone my problems, rather than walking steadily towards them with you by my side. Amen

## **Doing:**

Wednesday, 22 June 2016