

Where's Your Chair?

Acts 21 15-26



I will offer to you a sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the Lord.
I will fulfil my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
Psalm 116:15-16

Praising:

O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory,
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.

Reading:

Acts 21:15-26

Paul is welcomed at Jerusalem

Paul's greeting in Jerusalem is warm and sincere, but there are some important apostolic formalities. Paul's first appointment is with James and the elders, who are overjoyed to hear in detail about the work God has done through Paul among the Gentiles. They give God the glory for all that they are hearing but then the mood changes.

Paul's attention is drawn to the growth of Christian numbers in Jerusalem among the Jews. The problem is, false reports have spread among the Jewish Christians that Paul is undermining Moses and the old Jewish customs. To undo the mistrust, the elders suggest that in line with Numbers 6:1-6 Paul should undertake a temporary Nazarite vow. They also restate their position on their ritual expectations of the Gentile believers (chapter 15). Paul's instant response is humble and unquestioning obedience.

Listening:

Praying:

When it comes to some of our fellow believers, Lord we pray for patience

- to bide our time, however long it takes for some people to trust and love us
- to make an effort ourselves to get on their side, learn their ways, and win them over
- to remember the people whom we have been slow to depend upon and open up to

Father: grant me obedience, to hear the wisdom and heed the advice of my elders in the faith, in the face of every personal frustration and every urge to go my own spiritual way. Amen

Doing:

Thursday, 23 June 2016