

The Church on Mission

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..." Acts 1:8

Good News Baptist Church
AM Message

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THE SENSITIVITY NEEDED TO SERVE

Acts 21:17-26

Context: Paul arrives in Jerusalem knowing he awaited arrest and affliction. Paul showed great conviction in the will of God (Acts 20:22-21:14). James and the elders in Jerusalem ask Paul to perform a Jewish custom. They are not asking Paul to go back on what they decided in Acts 15 (about not making Gentile converts become Jewish to be saved), but instead to be sensitive to the concerns of Jewish Christians about several Jewish practices.

God calls us to serve with the sensitivity of humility to reach people with all their concerns.

A sensitive humility works to reach people:

I. Always giving God the credit that the mission is His doing (Acts 21:17-20).

➤ *Be ready to praise God for wherever and whoever He saves and ministers. Global missions is important to God and should be treasured by us also.*

II. By understanding their concerns or accusations (Acts 21:20-22; 1 Corinthians 9:19-23).

➤ *Expect to be misunderstood. Communication is complicated. The unsaved are blinded and Satan is the accuser and slanderer of your soul. Instead of being sidelined due to frustration, have compassion on people and take the challenge to understand and minister to them.*

III. By honoring godly men's advice (Acts 21:23-25).

- *Faith and passion for God takes the risk of ministering to people who may reject your witness.*
- *Our goal is to not add offenses to the gospel. Don't chase complainers and naysayers.*

IV. By sacrifices to minimize the offensiveness of the church's witness (Acts 21:26).

- *Rumors may be unavoidable, but we should be mindful not to add to tensions, be careless, or vengeful. We have a ministry of providing a greater platform for the truthfulness of the gospel, not our own honor.*