



Week 24: Costly Obedience

Following Jesus requires obedience beyond understanding. As Paul journeyed toward Jerusalem, he knew suffering awaited him, yet he continued because his surrender to Christ had already been settled. His story reminds us that faith isn't about having all the answers—it's about trusting the One who does. When our surrender is settled, we can remain faithful no matter what lies ahead.

Discussion Questions:

1. **Read Acts 20:22-24.** Paul was willing to obey even when he didn't know how things would turn out. Why do you think we often want God to explain His plan before we're willing to obey Him? Share a time when God asked you to trust Him without giving you all the details.
2. **Read Acts 21:1-15.** Paul receives repeated warnings about what awaits him in Jerusalem, yet he remains committed to God's call. How can we discern the difference between wise counsel that should change our direction and loving advice that might unintentionally pull us away from God's will? Give an example where you've experienced one or both of these.
3. Shawn said, "Costly obedience is the result of settled surrender." What areas of life are easiest for you to surrender to Jesus and why? What areas are the hardest and why?
4. Paul was willing to lose everything, including his life, because Jesus had become his identity, security, and purpose. Where are you most tempted to look for your identity or security apart from Christ (career, finances, relationships, success, comfort, etc.)? How does that affect your willingness to obey Him?
5. Everyone eventually faces a "Jerusalem"—a place where obedience is costly. Is there an area where you sense God asking you to take a step of faith that you've been resisting? What would "obedience beyond understanding" look like for you this week, and how can the group pray for you?