

Hill Cliffe Study Guide Sunday 24 September 2023 Sermon 3 – Acts 20-21

1. What impacted you most from the Sunday sermon?

Please revisit Acts Ch 20.28-31

- 2. Paul teaches the elders that it is the Holy Spirit who has made them overseers of God's flock (those called and tasked to 'watch-over' and 'be shepherds of' the flock)? In other words, '*The Lord is our Shepherd, but He has also made overseer to watch over and to shepherd His flock.*' Why does this truth matter?
- 3. Which aspects of being shepherds does Paul emphasize for the Ephesian elders?
- 4. The church of God is 'bought with His own blood' how does this truth help correct us all ('elders' and 'flock' alike) from a false sense of 'ownership' of God's church?

Please read Acts 21.1-14, along with 1 Kings 11.29-31 & Matthew 16.21-27

- 5. What do you think the Spirit's purpose was in revealing this predictive prophesy through Agabus to those present in Caesarea (like the OT predictive prophesy by Ahijah in 1 Kings 11, and Jesus' predictive message to his disciples in Matthew 16)?
- 6. How was the people's reaction like that of Peter in Matthew 16?
- 7. Do you think their resignation in Acts 21.14 is the reaction the Holy Spirit was looking for?
- 8. How does this alert us to the danger of responding to prophesy in 'human' ways rather than embracing the 'mind of God'?

Please read Acts 21.15-26

- 9. How do you think Paul would have felt at the reaction of James and the Jerusalem elders to his return after 4 years, and his report of God's work amongst the Gentiles (Acts 21.17-22)? How would you feel?
- 10. What can we learn from how Paul handled himself in the situation?