

ON THE MOVE

#VCMove

Pastor Kris Beckert
May 22, 2016

Moving Back
Acts 21:17-23:11

Have you ever moved back to a place you once lived?

How do you approach your past when you're moving forward with Christ?

When you go home:

I. _____ to where people are (Don't be a _____!)

Acts 21:17-26 When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers and sisters received us warmly. 18 The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present. 19 Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20 When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. 21 They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs. 22 What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come, 23 so do what we tell you. There are four men with us who have made a vow. 24 Take these men, join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law." 25 As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality." 26 The next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he went to the temple to give notice of the date when the days of purification would end and the offering would be made for each of them.

II. _____ with those from your past

Acts 21:37-22:2 As the soldiers were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, "May I say something to you?" "Do you speak Greek?" he replied. 38 "Aren't you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the wilderness some time ago?" 39 Paul answered, "I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people." 40 After receiving the commander's permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense." 2 When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.

III. _____ the story of your past

Acts 22:3-5 Then Paul said: 3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. 4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, 5 as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished..."

Acts 13:11 The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, "Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome."

Point:

Doggy Bag: Something to take home and chew on!



1. How do you tend to approach people from your past when you're moving forward with Christ?
2. Have you ever experienced someone being a jerk about their faith? What was your reaction? Have you ever been a jerk about your faith?
3. The next time you go home, what would it look like for you to relate on someone else's terms?
4. Who have you given up on from your past who God may be calling you to re-engage?
5. How can God leverage your faith story to impact someone else's story?

*****Next week, Pastor Todd will be leading a Q&A as part of the sermon. Text questions about anything from the "On the Move" series to 703-573-8463**

To talk personally and confidentially about your relationship with Christ, please email Pastor Todd (pastortodd@thevineva.org) or Pastor Kris (krisbeckert@thevineva.org).