

**LEAN IN | JUNE 24, 2018 | Rebeca Monzo**

***We just finished a great series on the Holy Spirit. We learned that we are new creations and that as these new creations the Holy Spirit is working in and through us. Because he is in us we desire to do his will. Because he is working through us we expect to experience his power. Paul writes in Philippians 2:13 "For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him." We are leaving the upper room with our eyes open, ready to do his work, in his power. With that, let's spend some time in the book of Acts 20:22-24.***

***ACTS 20:22A "AND NOW I AM BOUND BY THE SPIRIT TO GO TO JERUSALEM"***

- Paul had a close relationship with the HS, and because of that he felt he was under the Spirit's constant constraint.
- There's a feeling we get as followers that we need to do something for God. It's this sense in our heart, this gnawing in our spirit that we just can't get away from. That feeling is what we call being compelled or bound.
- We can either lean into that feeling, or choose to ignore it. Paul leaned in even though it didn't make a lot of sense.
- Sometimes when the HS compels us to do something it doesn't make a lot of sense in that moment and more often than not it takes us out of our comfort zone.

***ACTS 20:22B-23 "I DON'T KNOW WHAT AWAITS ME, EXCEPT THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT TELLS ME IN CITY AFTER CITY THAT JAIL AND SUFFERING LIE AHEAD."***

- Paul was going to Jerusalem with his eyes wide open.
  - When we step out to do the work God is giving us to do chances are we will face resistance whether physical or spiritual (Eph. 6:12)
  - Unfortunately, our fear of this resistance often keeps us on the sidelines.
  - Paul knew what he was walking into and yet he walked into it anyway. Because it wasn't about him. It wasn't about his desires, comforts, security or ego.
  - Though Paul faced adversities he also experienced great victories and we will too.
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*ACTS 20:24 "BUT MY LIFE IS WORTH NOTHING TO ME UNLESS I USE IT FOR FINISHING THE WORK ASSIGNED ME BY THE LORD JESUS - THE WORK OF TELLING OTHERS THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT THE WONDERFUL GRACE OF GOD."*

- This is a message about dying to self. Paul put the call of the HS above his own desires and comforts because he knew that his purpose on earth was to glorify God.
- We weren't just saved FROM something, we were saved FOR something. (Eph. 2:10)
- We need to lean into the work God has for us because the world needs Jesus. Our community needs to hear about the wonderful grace of God.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. What does it look like to live a life that is "bound by the Spirit"?
2. What fears and attitudes keep us from leaning into the work of God?
3. What is some "work" that God is inviting you into?