



THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY

NEILL GIBSON

15A

**FAREWELL TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERS & THE
JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM, WHERE CHAINS AWAIT**

SESSION 15A

FACE SET TO JERUSALEM

- As Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem in Luke 9:51, which charted the course for the rest of Luke's Gospel, now Paul is on the same trajectory (set up in Acts 19:21, but now in full swing). Jesus was accompanied by His band of disciples, and Paul by his delegates, the fruit of his ministry among the Gentiles.
- We're seeing a mature man of God being led by the Holy Spirit. Timothy, as in other times, would have watched intently how Paul handled these situations, how he heard from God, and how he processed the input of others.

FAREWELL TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERS

- These were the leaders he had raised up during the longest stationary period of his missionary career.
- Note what we glean about the time in Ephesus.
- What is his inspired perspective of his future?
- The warnings he gives set us up for the future ministry of Timothy in Ephesus, when these prophetic warnings have unfortunately come to pass.

PROPHETIC DIRECTION FOR YOU, PAUL

- Paul knew from the Holy Spirit directly that bonds and afflictions await (20:23).
- The Ephesian elders grieve over this (20:37-38). Did they see him again?
- Disciples at Tyre told him through the Spirit not to set foot in Jerusalem (21:4).
- In Philip's house, among prophetic activity, a reputable and accurate prophet predicts Paul will be bound by the Jews and given to the Gentiles, and the people begged him not to go (21:9-14).

PROPHETIC DIRECTION FOR YOU, _____.

HOW TO HANDLE PROPHETIC INPUT

- What types of resistance and bad advice have you received, like when you came to school here?
- What should you look for as accurate prophetic indicators?
- What should you not be moved by?
- What should you be cautious of?

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR AS ACCURATE PROPHETIC INDICATORS?

- Pay attention to things that seem like God is authenticating.
- Pay attention to things that are connected to your prayers.
- Pay attention to the things that only God can do.
- Be open to ways the Holy Spirit may open a new path, without being battered around.
- Pay attention to the Spiritual markers in your path and how they connect into the next step of God's activity.

WHAT SHOULD YOU NOT BE MOVED BY? WHAT SHOULD YOU BE CAUTIOUS OF?

- We know in part and prophesy in part – beware of prophesying that is according to knowledge rather than faith.
- Reputation and track record do play a role in receiving prophecy, but it does not inherently validate their conclusions.
 - Revelation – Interpretation – Application
- Do not be directed solely by what someone else speaks to you.

BEING CAREFUL HOW YOU MINISTER TO OTHERS

- Better to give what you have with the right language to match ("Thus saith the Lord" vs. an impression vs. a song vs. a verse remembered vs. inner voice of the Lord)
- Helpful to break apart where the revelation ends and what it brings up to you or what you think they may need to do as a result.
- Be cautious about details (spouse, gift, etc.).
- Be cautious about calling someone to things you've never walked in.

THE AFTERMATH OF JERUSALEM – WHAT HAPPENED TO TIMOTHY?

- Timothy may part for now...
- What ideas do you guys have?



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