

Trips of St. Paul

Objective:

- 🕒 To learn about the trips that St. Paul made and the story of each.
- 🕒 To learn from the persistence of St. Paul and how he preached the word of God even though he went through persecutions and tough times.

Memory Verse:

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household” (Acts 16:31)

References:

- 🕒 The Book of Acts
- 🕒 The Pauline Epistles
- 🕒 The Bible Atlas
- 🕒 <http://www.orthodoxsermons.org/> - Fr Anthony Messih “St Paul”

Introduction:

Where is the farthest that any of you have been for a vacation? Have you ever been on a ship or boat? Well, today our lesson is about a man who practically lived on a boat because he was travelling to preach the word of God. He wasn't on vacation, but he was doing his job of serving God.

Lesson Outline:

As you know Saul was converted to St. Paul after the Lord had appeared to him in Damascus. He went through a lot of persecutions for the sake of spreading the word of the Lord and converting people to Christianity. This week we will talk about the trips of St. Paul.

I. St Paul: Childhood, Conversion, and Preaching

St. Paul was born in Tarsus, and he was a Hebrew from Diaspora. He also had two names. He was named Saul, but his name was changed to Paul when he was converted (Acts 9) and he was a Roman citizen. When he was 13, he was sent to Jerusalem to learn the law from Gamalael and he learned tent making and was a Pharisee. After he became a follower of Christ, he began to preach His word and endured many persecutions, as we know. He also traveled a lot through a place called Asia Minor near the Mediterranean Sea. We will talk about 4 stories from the trips that St. Paul made.

St. Paul did three circular trips where he would return to the same city or close to where he started. These trips were to preach and spread Christianity to as many cities as he could reach. The fourth trip is a one-way trip to Rome where he was persecuted and Martyred.

A. 1st Trip: Aleem the Sorcerer

First, read the story from Acts 13:6-12. This is a story that happened during St. Paul's first trip (see map). By doing miracles like this with the sorcerer, many people were converted to Christians.



1st Trip

B. 2nd Trip: The Jailer of Philippi

Another story is in Acts 16:25-34. In this trip (the second trip) he was in Philippi near Macedonia (see map). Let us read what happened there. (Our memory verse is included in this reading)



2nd Trip

C. 3rd Trip: His Final Speech

St. Paul then took a third trip in which he passed by Miletus (see map). Read Acts 20:18-38. This was Paul's final speech to the people there and they were sad to see him leave.



3rd Trip

D. 4th Trip: In Malta on the way to Rome

The last story that we will talk about is when St. Paul was going to Rome; he passed by an island called Malta (see map). Our last reference is Acts 28:1-10. Here we see how St. Paul traveled a lot just to preach the word of God. After these trips, he went to Rome and lived there continuing to preach about God.



4th Trip

II. The Political and social state of the world

The state of the world during the time of St. Paul's trips facilitated the spread of Christianity. The Roman Empire was occupying many countries and they were connected together, which facilitated the spread of Christianity. The factors that helped the spread of Christianity at that time, were:

- ⌚ The Roman Empire
- ⌚ The Roads
- ⌚ The Language
- ⌚ The nationality
- ⌚ The justice

Conclusion/ Questions:

Now that we have learned about the trips of St. Paul, there is a question we should be able to answer. What does the priest do during the readings of the Pauline, Catholic Epistle, and Acts? He walks around the church with the censor during the first two readings and only walks to the sides of the church during the final reading. What does this represent? The first two times is the trips that St. Paul made preaching the word of God throughout the world. The final time when Abouna does not go entirely around the church represents the commandment of the Lord to the disciples not to leave Jerusalem.

Applications:

- ⌚ How can we also preach the word of God in our lives?
- ⌚ What can we do other than preaching the word of God to serve Him?