

Acts
A Dangerous Calling
Acts 21:1-16

Liminality: the ambiguity and disorientation that occurs in the middle stage of a rite of passage when participants no longer hold their pre-ritual status but have not yet achieved the status they will hold when the rite is complete. It is a term used to describe a threshold experience as if we are passing from one room to another means of a hallway in between. That hallway is the transitional space between what was and what is to come.

1. Love people but love Jesus more.
2. Value input but obey the will of God.
3. Exercise caution but live without fear.
4. Count the cost but risk it all.

Paul could go to Jerusalem and expect the worst, because the Jesus He loved and served, had gone to Jerusalem expecting the worst. For the sake of the gospel, we too, can pursue the quest we have landed in, the path that God has put us on, even if it means that we move toward danger. We approach that danger for our King, knowing that our King did the same for us.

For further consideration

Take a moment to consider how you have lived the Christian life. Has that life cost you anything? Have you ever had to trust God because for the sake of the gospel you found yourself in a dangerous place? It is easy to trust God in our wealth and prosperity. Mohler wrote, "We can easily entrench ourselves in our own freedom and thus paralyze our ability to serve others." This is hard to see in our own lives, but can you spot areas in which you are most tempted to idolize your freedom or preferences? What would it look like to worship Christ in those areas instead? Do you think Paul was right or wrong in going to Jerusalem?