

# Why is Coming Home So Difficult?

Acts 21:1-26





“And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD....And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the LORD.” (Isaiah 66:20)







## Voyage from Miletus to Tyre

<sup>1</sup> And when we had parted from them and set sail, we came by a straight course to Cos, and the next day to Rhodes, and from there to Patara. <sup>2</sup> And having found a ship crossing to Phoenicia, we went aboard and set sail. <sup>3</sup> When we had come in sight of Cyprus, leaving it on the left we sailed to Syria and landed at Tyre, for there the ship was to unload its cargo.

Acts 21:1-3







A scenic view of a coastline with mountains in the background and a rocky cliffside in the foreground. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue with some clouds. The mountains are dark and rugged. The cliffside is rocky and has some green vegetation.

## Warnings Raised in Tyre

<sup>4</sup> And having sought out the disciples, we stayed there for seven days. And through the Spirit they were telling Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup> When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed <sup>6</sup> and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

Acts 21:4-6



A scenic view of a coastline with mountains in the background and a rocky cliffside in the foreground. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is a lighter blue with some clouds. The mountains are dark and forested. The cliffside is rocky and has some green vegetation.

## Sweet Fellowship in Caesarea

<sup>7</sup> When we had finished the voyage from Tyre, we arrived at Ptolemais, and we greeted the brothers and stayed with them for one day. <sup>8</sup> On the next day we departed and came to **Caesarea**, and we entered the house of **Philip the evangelist**, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. <sup>9</sup> He had four unmarried daughters, who prophesied.

Acts 21:7-9





## Agabus' Prophecy

<sup>10</sup> While we were staying for many days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup> And coming to us, he took Paul's belt and bound his own feet and hands and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is how the Jews at Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'"

Acts 21:10-11





## Differing Views Resolved

<sup>12</sup> When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> Then Paul answered, “What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be imprisoned but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” <sup>14</sup> And since he would not be persuaded, we ceased and said, “Let the will of the Lord be done.”

Acts 21:12-14



# Welcome, Generous Hospitality

<sup>15</sup> After these days we got ready and went up to Jerusalem.  
<sup>16</sup> And some of the disciples from Caesarea went with us, bringing us to the house of Mnason of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge. <sup>17</sup> When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. (Acts 21:15-17)





## New Wine in Jerusalem

<sup>18</sup> On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. <sup>19</sup> After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. <sup>20</sup> And when they heard it, they glorified **God**.





## Pressure from the Zealous Jews

<sup>20b</sup> And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all **zealous for the law**, <sup>21</sup> and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs. <sup>22</sup> What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.

Acts 21:20b-22



## New Wine in Old Wineskins?

<sup>23</sup> Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; <sup>24</sup> take these men and **purify yourself** along with them and **pay their expenses**, so that they may shave their heads. Thus **all will know** that there is nothing in what they have been told about you, but that **you yourself also live in observance of the law.** <sup>25</sup> But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality.

Acts 21:23-25





## Paul's Obedience

<sup>26</sup> Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself along with them and went into the temple, giving notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for each one of them.

Acts 21:26





# Why is Coming Home So Difficult?

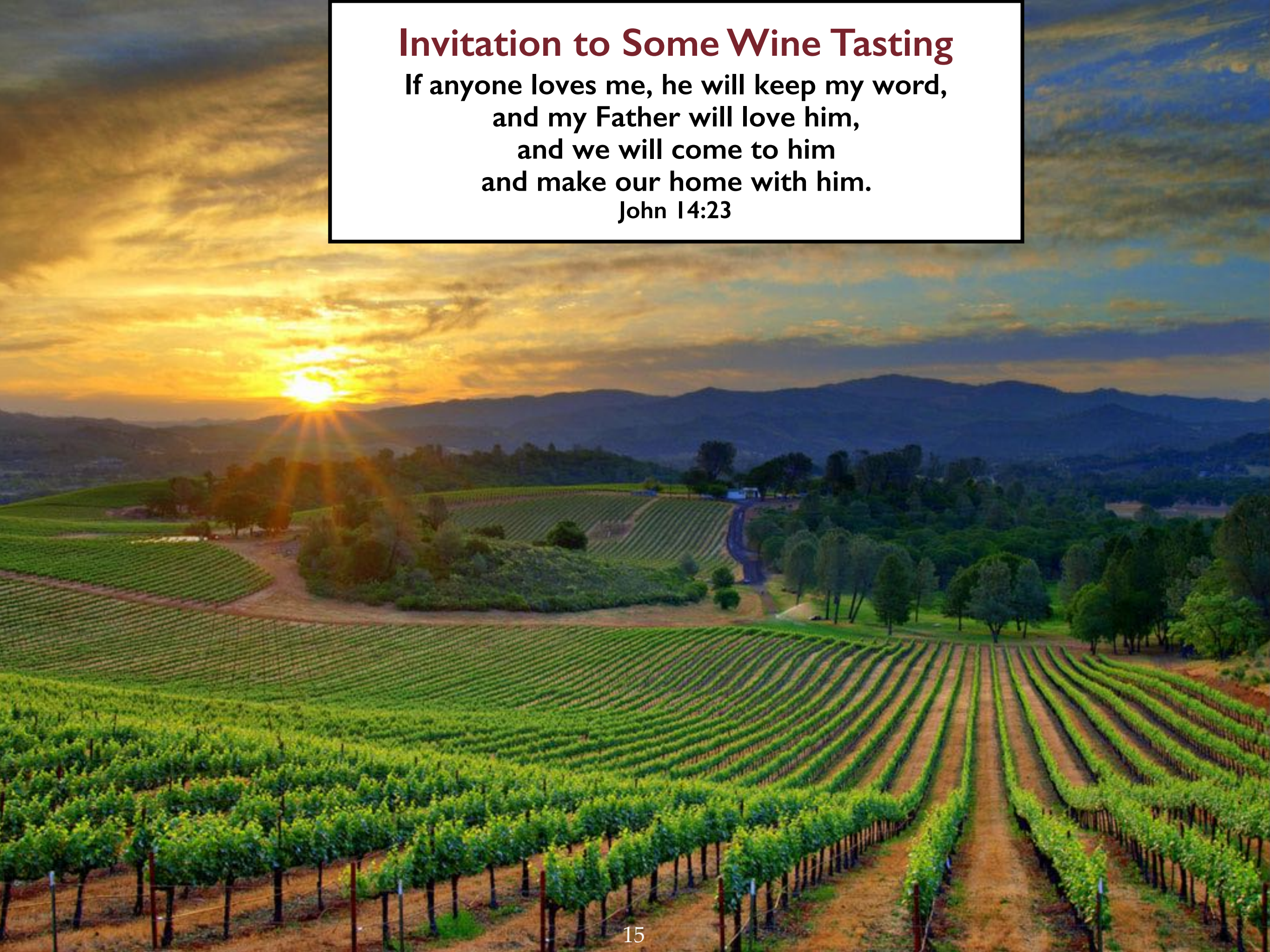




# Invitation to Some Wine Tasting

If anyone loves me, he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we will come to him  
and make our home with him.

John 14:23







# The Cordoba Project





# Invitation to the Table





---

# Our Confession

---

Gracious Lord God, whose tender mercies are given to all your creation, we humbly and sorrowfully ask your forgiveness for the sins of this day;

For every impure thought which our minds have given refuge,

**O LORD forgive us;**

For every word spoken in hastiness or anger,

**O LORD forgive us;**

For every failure of self-control and every instance of selfishness,

**O LORD forgive us;**



---

# Our Confession

---

For every stumbling block of word or deed we have set in another's way,

**O LORD forgive us;**

For every opportunity lost or squandered,

**O LORD forgive us;**

For loitering feet and a procrastinating will,

**O LORD forgive us;**

And grant, gracious Lord, may your Spirit rule in our hearts, more and more, that we may offer your love and grace to all we meet, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



# Come to the Table





# The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who is in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us.

And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
for yours is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.



# Drink the Cup of Forgiveness

