



“But when our time was up, we left and continued on our way. All the disciples and their wives and children accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray.

Acts 21:5

Paul's life is like a photo album filled with snapshots of the rich life of faith. Imagine the scene Paul's ship has docked in the seaport of Tyre to unload cargo. He remained there for seven days to spend time with Christ's disciples. The picture we have been given is one of strong personal ties and commitment to a common goal. I imagine their time together was full of sharing stories of all that was happening in the early days of the church.

However, when it was time for Paul to go, they all walked out of the city to the ship together. I can imagine children running on ahead, chasing each other, laughing out loud as Paul and the other men and their wives shared last words of encouragement and love. When they arrived at the beach, the whole group stopped and got down on their knees to pray. I'm sure that wasn't a strange sight to the children. They were living in difficult days. Christianity was under attack. It really cost something to be a follower of Christ.

Today may seem different, but it's really not. There is still a cost to be sold out to Jesus. But Paul's example to us encourages us to model to everyone that our very lives depend on God. So, before we move on with all the "stuff" of the day and of this week, let's make sure we are taking time to stop, get down on our knees and pray. Let's remember the reason we celebrate as we prepare and make ready. Let's set the example and lead the way that all may know and experience the arrival of the greatest gift we will ever know – the gift of Christ our Lord.

Prayer:

Gracious Father,

Let my light so shine before others that they may long to know you.

Amen