

Out the Window and Around Ephesus

Acts Chapter 20

Act 20:1 **1) Re-Visit Macedonia, Greece and Back Again** vs 1-6

After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia.

Act 20:2 When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.

Act 20:3 And {there} he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

Act 20:4 And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, {the son} of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.

Act 20:5 But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for **us** at Troas.

- Paul says goodbye to the church in Ephesus. He will not see them again. In verse 16 we see that he will travel nearby and send for the Elders from Ephesus. But Paul will not see that church again on this trip for he was in a hurry to get to Jerusalem.
- The text doesn't give much detail but quickly runs thru Paul's return to Macedonia and Greece.
- The only two pieces of detail is
 - That his intention to travel to Syria was interrupted by a plot against his life. So he had to back track through Macedonia over land
 - Listed are his traveling companions. 7 men were listed. Luke was there but only noticed by including a subtle reference to himself in verse 5.



- While Paul was in Ephesus Paul writes the 1st letter to the Corinthians
- When in Macedonia for the first time on this journey Paul writes 2nd Corinthians
- While in Corinth Paul writes his letter to the Romans.

Act 20:6 We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days.

- The 7 men sailed ahead of Paul and Luke to Troas. Luke and Paul joined them there.

The Christian Journey

- Interesting that in chapter 16 going from Troas to Macedonia in one day with fair winds.
- In this chapter it takes 5 days to sail into contrary winds tacking back and forth.
- We as Christians are privileged to maintain our joy, hope, trust and faith in both times of smooth sailing and contrary winds. We will experience both. It is the Holy Spirit in our lives that give us consistency no matter what the circumstances.

Act 20:7 **2) Falling out the Window** vs 7-16

On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul {began} talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight.

- This verse is a strong verse for Christians gathering in Sunday rather than the Sabbath.
- Also it is important to see that gathered together to break bread. Communion that remembered the Lord Jesus. That was the priority in gathering, not worship, reading, teaching, fellowship. All these things are good and important but should point our attention to Jesus.
- Sunday being a workday, this meeting began in the evening. Paul was leaving the next day and wanted to share as much as he could. It would be a long message.

Act 20:8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together.

Act 20:9 And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead.

- Picture this scene. The men working during all day come to a meeting. It is a warm day the windows are open to get air circulating. These people gathered into the upper room where heat rises. In the evening time they would light up many lamps. This creating more heat and eating up oxygen.
- A young man named "Eutychus" which means fortunate. As we continue you will see how fortunate.
- Eutychus overcome by the fumes, fatigue, or heat fell out the window and was dead. (Luke a physician could make a quality decision)
 - Distracted - By the windows
 - Disengaged - Falling asleep
 - Departed - Left the church
 - Dead - Final Result in leaving the church

Act 20:10 But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him."

- Paul went to the young man to minister to him and after attending to him announced to the people that the boy would live.
 - **1 Kings 17:21** Elijah prayed (fell upon) a young boy for life to return "*he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again.*"
 - **2 Kings 4:17-37** Elisha prays for the Shunammite woman's son who died. "*he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.*"

Act 20:11 When he had gone {back} up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left.

Act 20:12 They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

- Paul now having everybody's full attention heads back up, breaks bread together and continues teaching with them until morning.
- Those who knew the boy were greatly blessed.

Act 20:13 But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land.

Act 20:14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene.

Act 20:15 Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus.

- Paul travels on foot from Troas to Assos while the team takes a ship. But they meet up in Assos and sail a series of one day trips to Mitylene, Chios, Samos then Miletus.

Act 20:16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

- Paul intends to get to Jerusalem by Pentecost. He knows himself that if he goes to Ephesus that he would be delayed in meeting that goal. Paul is not slighting the Ephesians. He simply realizes that his love for them would cause him to stay longer than his intention.
- Paul calls a special meeting with himself and the Ephesian Elders in Miletus.

Act 20:17 **3) The Elders Meeting** vs 17-38

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church.

- This speech is the only speech recorded by Luke that Paul delivers to Christians.
- This speech will look at two ministries.
 - Paul's Ministry - What he expected of himself.
 - The Elder's Ministry - What he expected of them.

Act 20:18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time,

Act 20:19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews;

Act 20:20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house,

Act 20:21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Paul's Ministry - What he expected of himself
- 1) **Commitment to People** - vs. 18 Paul was committed to this people even though there were plenty of ministry places to be all throughout Asia
- 2) **Humility in Ministry** - vs. 19 Paul wasn't trying to be big time. He loved the people where he was if it was difficult, filled with trials or threats
- 3) **Declaring the Whole Counsel of God** - vs. 20a Paul taught all things even the things others would shrink back from. (Sin, Hell, Stewardship, Responsibility, Holiness, A Gospel for All People...)
- 4) **Work the Work of the Ministry** - vs. 20b Paul went where the people needed him. He didn't expect people to come to him. (publicly or house to house)
- 5) **No Prejudice** - vs. 21 Paul the same message to all people. **Repentance towards God / Faith in Jesus**

Paul

- Preached as a missionary for 16 years
- Preached in an area of 1500 square miles
- Traveled 5580 miles on land
- Traveled 6770 by sea
- Traveled 12350 miles in 16 years
- He poured out his life into ministry
- Beaten, Stoned, Alone, Left for Dead, Shipwrecked, Jailed

Act 20:22 "And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there,

Act 20:23 except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.

- Paul says he is headed to Jerusalem but doesn't know what awaits him.
- But he has a good idea. **Romans 15:31** Paul implies that when he is in Jerusalem there is going to be trouble and that he will need to be delivered.
- Even here he knows that everywhere he goes there are chains and plots waiting for him.
- 6) **Acceptance of HIS Ministry** - vs. 22-23 Paul accepted the ministry that God designed for him. Paul didn't need that ministry that others do.

Act 20:24 "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

- 7) **Finishing Well** - vs. 24 Paul wants consistency even to the end. Paul doesn't use the end of the course as an excuse to become slack.
 - **1 Corinthians 9:24** "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but {only} one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win."
 - **Hebrews 12:1-3** "let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."
 - Paul's ministry was given to him by Jesus and it was to testify the good news of the GRACE OF GOD.

- Act 20:25 "And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.
- Act 20:26 "Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.
- Act 20:27 "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.
- Paul is innocent with regards to being a "WATCHMAN" warning all men of their eternal destiny.
 - When Paul was with them he modeled these last 7 traits before them. Now he is leaving them and passing the baton as a "WATCHMAN" to these Elders. He tells them 4 things.
 - The Elder's Ministry - What he expects of them
- Act 20:28 "**Be on guard** for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.
- Act 20:29 "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;
- Act 20:30 and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.
- A) **BE ON YOUR GUARD** - for yourself AND the flock.
- Paul is telling them that they have a duty as an overseer or shepherd. This is a divine charge for the Holy Spirit made the overseers (bishops) Not Paul. Knowing this will be of a great assistance when Paul is gone. If the Holy Spirit can call you, He can equip you.
 - The first duty of an overseer or shepherd is to be on guard for THEMSELVES.
 - The second is to guard the FLOCK. This is such a loving term. The FLOCK is needed to be cared for with tender presence. Paul is telling these elders that the people who are in their care are precious to God, for He has purchased them with His own blood
 - Paul also tells them of internal attack from people they know that will twist or pervert the truth. These will draw men away from Jesus and to themselves. **SAVAGE WOLVES are interested in their own appetites/interests rather than the flock. They look at a flock as something they can use to fulfill their own appetite.** (We today need to be careful of men that are more interested in making a name for themselves than lifting Jesus' Name up)
 - 1 Timothy 1:3-4 Paul tells Timothy to go to Ephesus and take control of the teaching "As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine, Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: [so do]."
- Act 20:31 "Therefore **be on the alert**, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears.
- B) **BE ON THE ALERT** - Being on guard is watching for the possibility of something while being on the alert is readiness for action in that something is happening.
- Same is true for us today. Something is happening even as we speak. We need action right now against atheism, humanism, false conversions, and the watering down of the true gospel.
 - Paul's action was his prayers sown in tears.
- Act 20:32 "And now **I commend you to God** and to the word of His grace, which is able to build {you} up and to give {you} the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.
- C) **COMMENDED TO GOD** - Paul realizes that he cannot be the one who holds their hand any longer.
- Paul commends them to God. Paul trusts them to God. They need to trust God.
 - Paul commends them to the word of grace. You would think that what they needed was lots of do this and avoid that. No, what they need is grace. Grace to get them going and grace to keep them going. It is the word of grace that builds up.
- Act 20:33 "I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes.
- Act 20:34 "You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my {own} needs and to the men who were with me.
- Act 20:35 "In everything I showed you that by **working hard** in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "
- D) **WORK HARD** - Paul told them that ministry is hard work. And that the reward is the ministering to those in need not living off of tithes or being served as the man of God.
- **Revelation 2:2-3** "I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary."

- MORE BLESSED TO GIVE - Jesus' words are not recorded anywhere in the gospels. But John wrote in John 21:25 *"And There are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written."*

Act 20:36 When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Act 20:37 And they {began} to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him,

Act 20:38 grieving especially over the word which he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they were accompanying him to the ship.

- These Elders loved Paul and Paul loved these Elders. It is demonstrated by this tender scene of farewell in that they realize that they will not see each other again.

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