

Acts 20.1-38

Truth through Tears

If you're making yourself COMFORTABLE for a SNOOZE during SERMON
WARNING – I am going to be TALKING ABOUT YOU in just a Few Minutes!

PREVIEW > from Acts Chapter 20 ONWARD > Shift in MINISTRY FOCUS

- From Extension of Church to Encouragement of Established churches

Up To Ch 19 PIONEER Work / New AREAS > Now FINAL Visits, Encourage

v. 1 Paul sent for the disciples and, after *encouraging them*, said good-by...

v. 2 ...speaking *many words of encouragement* to the people...

v. 7 Paul spoke to the people...

v. 17 Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church...

LUKE Compresses in Few VERSES > Several MONTHS, Hundreds MILES

DURING this Time Paul PROBABLY Wrote ROMANS & 2 CORINTHIANS

Our hope is that, as your faith continues to grow, our area of activity among you will greatly expand, so that we can preach the gospel in *the regions beyond you*.

2 Corinthians 10.15-16

Paul's APOSTOLIC Calling to PREACH to UNREACHED in Regions Beyond

OTHERS will PASTOR and TEACH these Churches he PLANTED

- From Reaching Gentiles for Christ to Reconciling Jew and Gentile in Christ

Apostle to GENTILES was DEVOUT JEW > Jesus his Messiah and Lord

Writes to EPHESIANS about GOD'S PURPOSE IN CHRIST ---

His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both (*Jew and Gentile*) of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. Ephesians 2.16-17

Reconcile JEW and GENTILE Believers in ONE Church > Truth of GOSPEL

VISIBLE EXPRESSION of Unity > OFFERING from GENTILES for JEWS

BRIEFLY Mentioned by Luke in Acts // More DETAILS in Romans / 2 Corinth

Paul to Felix: “I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor” Acts 24.17

v. 4 He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.

TRUSTED Men from GENTILE Churches: Accompany OFFERING to JEWS

- From Places to Speeches: from Travel to Teaching

Luke Records : 19 SERMONS in Acts > 25% of Acts Sermons

HERE in Chapter 20 > PAUL’S ONLY Sermon to BELIEVERS

ONLY Sermon LUKE was PRESENT to Record Message as he HEARD IT!

More Biographical Details about Paul - Testimony of CONVERSION 3 X’s

- Emphasis on Resurrection Power of Jesus in the Struggling Church

PAUL is BOUND and EVENTUALLY Martyred > CHURCH of Jesus LIVES

v. 32 Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace...

This is my gospel, for which I am suffering even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But God's word is not chained. 2 Timothy 2.9-10

Church NOT BUILT on MAN > LIVING LORD and His ETERNAL WORD



OUR TEXT > Acts 20 – Theme: ENCOURAGEMENT > 2 Main Sections

PUBLIC Ministry in Church TROAS / PRIVATE to Church Leaders in Miletus

1. Model for a Church

1st Sermon on Acts / February > Acts is NOT BLUEPRINT

Church NOT Required to Follow Every HISTORICAL EXAMPLE of churches

Draw Lots for Leaders?? Flames for Headdress?? Live in Communes??

Church Meeting in Troas > Unique HISTORICAL SETTING and EVENTS

HOUSE / 3rd Floor / EVENING / Oil LAMPS / LONG Sermon / Raise DEAD

INTERESTING: NO Mention > Prayers / Psalms / Hymns / Scripture Readings

KEY ELEMENTS Repeated & Endorsed in Epistles > FOLLOW TODAY

a. Lord's Day > Change in Calendar

v. 7 *On the first day of the week* we came together

LUKE was ACCURATE HISTORIAN > Chronological and THEOLOGICAL

This is the earliest unambiguous evidence we have for the Christian practice of gathering together for worship on the Lord's Day. F.F. Bruce

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb...He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24.1,6

Adventists? SATURDAY?? > Be Careful NOT Deny FINISHED WORK of Christ!

NEW Covenant is REALLY NEW > OLD is Passed AWAY

EARLY CHRISTIANS > Chose to REMEMBER the LORD on Day He ROSE!

Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. *On the first day of every week*, each one of you should set aside a sum of money... 1 Corinthians 16.1-2

On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit...

Revelation 1.10

b. Lord's Table > Change in Ceremony

v. 7 On the first day of the week *we came together to break bread.*

CAN Refer to EATING REGULAR MEAL > But HERE is LORD'S SUPPER
LATER THAT EVENING they had REGULAR MEAL

v. 11 Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate.

From OT ALTAR to NT TABLE >> Remember FINAL Sacrifice of JESUS

v. 6 But we sailed from Philippi after the Feast of Unleavened Bread,

PHILIPPI > NO Synagogue > CHRISTIAN Passover = EASTER

Solemn Day of Passover // Unleavened Bread > Death of Egyptians

NOW Joyful Celebration > Death is Finished > Work of Christ

For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

1 Corinthians 5.7

c. Lord's Word > HEAR His Voice as we OPEN His WORD

They devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching

Acts 2.42

Church TODAY meets with LIVING LORD Jesus thru HOLY SCRIPTURE

v. 7 Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. > ASK for Preaching like Paul?? BE CAREFUL!

v. 11 After talking until daylight...

TWO Loooooong Sermons: Evening till Midnight / Midnight to Morning

EAGER Hearers > ALERT, ATTENTIVE > TAKING COPIOUS NOTES!

EXCEPT FOR ONE GUY > for HIM Sermon was REAL KILLER

When weariness begins, edification ends.

John Newton

v. 9 Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead.

Name: EUTYCUS > YOU'D A CUSSED Too - Falling 3 Stories to Ground

Lit. Eutycus = FORTUNATE / APOSTLE Paul there to RESUSCITATE

v. 10-12 Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

Luke – EXPLAINS w/ Sensitivity > LATE, HOT, TIRED, Talk ON & ON

Paul – Throw's SELF > Like ELIJAH and ELISHA > Same God RAISED DEAD

TODAY'S HEALERS > AFTER HEALING there is an OFFERING!

Paul 'OK Now after that Excitement...Let's GET BACK to MY SERMON!'

PEOPLE > Very CAREFUL before FALLING ASLEEP during SERMON!

That is WHY we have THIS MEETING in the BASEMENT

You CONK OUT while I Preach – Not Enough Mandarin to CALL Ambulance!

ASLEEP? – DISAPPOINTS Me > UNDERSTAND...but will TRY & Wake You!

REALLY SAD – EYES Open but HEART / MIND / SOUL in DEEP SLUMBER

Reviewing Last Night's Events – Checking out some HOTTIE! – Planning Lunch

God's Word is OPEN – He DESERVES and DEMANDS our ATTENTION

Hear BEYOND Voice of Human Messenger & LISTEN to DIVINE MASTER!

None are so unholy as those whose hands are cauterized with holy things. C.S. Lewis

NEXT DAY: Paul sees LAD (8 to 14 yrs.) > Feels BAD Sermon KILLS People

v. 13 Paul...made this arrangement because he was going there on foot.

20 Mile WALK after a WHOLE, SLEEPLESS Night of PREACHING

GOD Give ME that STAMINA and STRENGTH!!

2. Motivation for a Christian

UNIQUE APOSTOLIC Ministry of Paul / Once, UNREPEATABLE, CLOSED

ALSO – MODEL for BELIEVERS >> Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.
1 Corinthians 11.1

CONTEXT: Sermon on Run to Church Leaders --- Makes them Run to him
EAGER to Reach JERUSALEM > Pentecost: MANY Jews to HEAR Messiah
Approx 25 YEARS Since – Most IMPORTANT Pentecost – Spirit GIVEN

INTO Ephesus MUST Make JOAZA & MOON Cakes, Drink Countless Cups TEA
So ELDERS Travel 50 kms. SOUTH to Miletus > ALONG the COAST
MESSAGE about his MINISTRY > PAST, FUTURE, PRESENT

PAST – Almost Three Year Ministry in Ephesus

FUTURE – Sufferings in Jerusalem

PRESENT – Pastoral Concern – For Themselves and their Sheep

a. Courage > Paul in Acts // POLICE REPORT > VICTIM & CULPRIT

Expelled SYNAGOGUES / BANNED Cities / HATED / HIT / ACCUSED

v. 3 The Jews made a plot against him just as he was about to sail for Syria

CANNOT Board SHIP w/Out WONDERING if he'd be THROWN Overboard

v. 13 Paul...made this arrangement because he was going there on foot.

vs. 22,23 I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.

MANY would CONSIDER a CAREER CHANGE > Color his Hair, Nose Job?

FIND a SAFE Place Somewhere with Col. GADDAFHI

James CALVERT – Going Pioneer M to FIJI – Islands inhabited by CANNIBALS
Ship Captain – Humane Man – Great Concern for Calvert whom he Admired

Captain: “You will lose your life and the lives of those with you if you go among such savages.” // Calvert: “We died before we came.”

Paul rehearsed his own integrity in office not to defend his reputation from criticism but to teach the elders through his own example, to engrave indelibly on their memories the picture of his tireless, tearful, truth-telling service as a pattern for their own ministry as shepherds of God’s flock. Dennis Johnson

b. Compassion > Response to Attacks? >> Bitter? Harsh? Cold? NO! HUMBLE!

v. 19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.

CONTRARY to STERN Image of Paul the Theologian > Humility & Tears

REASON for GREATNESS > God gives GRACE to the HUMBLE

Paul was ALL ABOUT God’s GRACE and God’s GLORY

Church of Scotland – Confident YOUNG Man – PREACH First SERMON

Almost RAN up steps to PULPIT – With CONFIDENT SWAGGER

Stood There – Looked at FACES --- FORGOT What HE had to SAY

WALKED Down from Pulpit – SLOWLY, HUMBLY, with HEAD DOWN

‘Young man, if you had gone up the way you came down, you would have been able to come down the way you went up.’ Church of Scotland Elder

v. 31 Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

These tears were wrung from him by struggles, various attacks of Satan, the rage of wicked men, the internal disorders of the church, and stumbling blocks...he confessed that he was upset by them, as he was not made of iron. John Calvin

v. 28 Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Sheep are dirty, subject to unpleasant pests, and regularly need to be dipped in strong chemicals to rid them of lice, ticks and worms. They are also unintelligent, wayward, and obstinate....Yet they are the flock of God the Father, purchased by the precious blood of God the Son, and supervised by overseers appointed by God the Holy Spirit. If the three persons of the Trinity are thus committed to the welfare of the people, should we not be also?

John Stott

Evangelism, Edification, Encouragement: WOVEN Together in Paul's MINISTRY
PAUL – NOT Seem like COLD, UNCARING Theologian / FATHER, Friend

vs. 36-38 When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

c. Clean

1) In what he Did NOT Do

vs. 33-34 I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.

NO MONEY Sins: How many POLITICIANS Can Say? Few PASTORS?

Samuel said to all Israel... "As for me, I am old and gray...I have been your leader from my youth until this day. Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the LORD and his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I accepted a bribe to make me shut my eyes? If I have done any of these, I will make it right." "You have not cheated or oppressed us," they replied. "You have not taken anything from anyone's hand."

1 Samuel 12.1-4

2) In what he DID > NOT ENOUGH to Say 'I did not DO ANYTHING!'

CALLING to FULFILL > Ministry to COMPLETE > Different DUTIES

GIFTS of SPEAKING and GIFTS of SERVING > Build Church, Glorify God

v. 26-27 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

SOLEMN RESPONSIBILITY of Prophet EZEKIEL ---

Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you will surely die,' and you do not speak out to dissuade him from his ways, that wicked man will die for his sin, and I will hold you accountable for his blood. But if you do warn the wicked man to turn from his ways and he does not do so, he will die for his sin, but you will have saved yourself. Ezekiel 33.7-9

WE ARE also UNDER ORDERS to TELL Others: Judgment and Deliverance

INNOCENT of their BLOOD > No Sins of OMISSION or COMMISSION

v. 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock

Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers. 1 Timothy 4.16

d. Companions > At least NINE Men on TEAM > Needed BODYGUARDS!

v. 4 He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.

v. 6 **we** sailed from Philippi / LUKE is Baaaaaaaaaaaaack Stayed in PHILIPPI

PAUL was TEAM PLAYER > Churches Paul planted LED by TEAMS

v. 17 Paul sent to Ephesus for the *elders of the church* > PRESBYTERS

v. 28 the Holy Spirit has made *you overseers* > Word for BISHOP

There is no biblical warrant either for the one man band (*a single pastor playing all the instruments himself*) or for a pyramid structure (*a senior pastor perched on the top*) in the local church. It is not even clear that individual elders were in charge of each house church. It is better to think of them as a team... We need today to recover this concept of a pastoral team in the church. John Stott

e. Confident > He is LEAVING – GOD REMAINS > By Word and Spirit

1) For Himself

vs. 22-24 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me - the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

Paul's PRIMARY Concern NOT his SAFETY or SURVIVAL > But SERVICE

Age of 20 took v. 24 as LIFE VERSE > 36 yrs. LATER > GOD is Faithful!

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.² Tim 4.7

One reason why many of us are not more effective in our Christian lives is that we do not have our priorities in order. Isn't it true that most of us value our lives far more than our witness?
James Boice

2) For the Church > What about CHURCHES he was LEAVING BEHIND??

vs. 29,30 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them.

ATTACK will come from OUTSIDE AND INSIDE

Jesus: "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."
Matthew 7.15

Believer's LIVING PROTECTION > God's Word, God's Spirit, God's Presence

v. 20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

From the PULPIT and in PRIVATE > BIG MEETING & SMALL GROUPS

v. 21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

v. 24 testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

v. 25 I have gone about preaching the kingdom

v. 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

Christian Woman in Singapore > Excited about MODERN Prophet in Church
SO EXCITING >> He is RIGHT about 30% of the TIME!

I am MORE EXCITED about 66 Books that are RIGHT 100% OF THE TIME!

v. 32 *Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.*

WORD that SAVED THEM will Continue to SANCTIFY THEM

3) In Christ

Modern Church – Evangelical, Biblical Churches – Emph on Secondary Issues

ALL Scripture is Important and USEFUL

MOST Important and USEFUL – Knowing JESUS CHRIST – Who is? What did?

APOSTOLIC Sermon in 1st C Church – Glory, Nature, Exclusivity of Jesus

Wanted to GO DEEPER into TRUTH of God? Went DEEPER into Jesus!

Paul ENDS MESSAGE to Ephesian Elders w/ WORDS of Jesus, Found Only Here

As APOSTLE of Jesus – DIRECT COMMUNICATION with RISEN LORD

SUPER Beatitude > Tells us how to be MORE BLESSED >> GIVE!

v. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

PAUL found this Great Blessing as he TIRELESS Gave to GOD & His CHURCH

MANY HERE also Found these WORDS of Jesus to be TRUE in their OWN Lives

PLANS for Fall in Beijing? / Remember these words of the Lord Jesus himself!

Acts 20

20:1 When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said good-bye and set out for Macedonia. 2 He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, 3 where he stayed three months. Because the Jews made a plot against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. 4 He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. 5 These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. 6 But we sailed from Philippi after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days. 7 On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. 9 Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. 10 Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" 11 Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. 12 The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted. 13 We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. 14 When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. 15 The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Kios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. 16 Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost. 17 From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. 18 When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. 19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews. 20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. 21 I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus. 22 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However,

I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. 25 "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. 26 Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. 28 Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29 I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30 Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31 So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. 32 "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. 35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" 36 When he had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. 37 They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. 38 What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.