

Acts 20.1-38

Bought with the Blood of God

Preview from Acts Chapter 20 Onward > Shift in MINISTRY FOCUS

- Extension of Church to Encouragement of Established churches

Up To Ch 19 Pioneer Work / New Areas > Now FINAL Visits, Encourage

Luke Compresses in Few Vss, Several MONTHS, Hundreds MILES

- From Reaching Gentiles for X to Reconciling Jew & Gentile in X

Reconcile Jew & Gentile Believers in ONE Church > Truth of GOSPEL

Visible Expression of Unity > Offering from GENTILES for JEWS

Briefly Mentioned by Luke in Acts // DETAILS Romans / 2 Corinth

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

v. 4 Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.

Trusted Men from Gentile Churches: Accompany Offerings to JEWS

- Emph on Resurrection Power of Jesus in Struggling Church

Paul BOUND and EVENTUALLY Martyred > Church of Jesus LIVES

v. 32 now I commend 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

Acts is NOT BLUEPRINT > 1st C Historical EXAMPLE in Troas

HOUSE / 3rd Floor / EVENING / Oil LAMPS

a. Lord's Day v. 7 On the first day of the week...gathered together

LUKE was Accurate Historian: Chronological & 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 1st day of week, very early in morning, women went to tomb Lk 24.1,6

NEW Covenant is REALLY NEW > OLD is Passed AWAY

Early Xtians > Chose to REMEMBER the LORD on Day He ROSE!

On the first day of every week...set aside a sum of money... 1 Cor 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 first day of the week...*gathered together to break bread*

CAN Refer to REGULAR MEAL > But HERE is LORD'S SUPPER

Later that Night had Regular Meal v. 11 Paul...broken bread and eaten

From OT Altar to NT Table >> Remember FINAL Sacrifice of JESUS

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 intending to depart next day, and he prolonged his speech til midnight

ASK for Preaching like Paul?? BE CAREFUL!

v. 11 he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak ...

2 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 And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

Greek "young man" 8 to 14 > Kids OUT // Windows locked LOW Height

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

Lit. Eutycus = FORTUNATE / AP. Paul there to RESUSCITATE

v. 10,12 Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him"... And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

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

Paul – Throw's SELF // Elijah & ELISHA > Same God RAISED DEAD

Paul 'OK Now after Excitement...Let's Get Back to MY SERMON!'

People > Very Careful before Falling Asleep during SERMON!

Next Day: Paul sees LAD (8/14 yrs.) Feels BAD Sermon KILLS People

v. 13 But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land.

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

Model Follow my example, as I follow the example of X 1 Cor 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 yrs Since – Most IMPORTANT Pentecost – Spirit GIVEN

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 > Called BOTH > VICTIM & CULPRIT

Expelled Synagogues / BANNED Cities / HATED / HIT / ACCUSED

v. 3 plot made against him by Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria

Cannot Board Ship w/Out WONDERING if be THROWN Overboard

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

vs. 22,23 And now, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

1838 James Calvert: Pioneer M to FIJI – Islands inhabited by Cannibals

Ship Captain – Great Concern for Calvert whom he Admired

Captain: “You will lose your life & the lives of those with you if you go among such savages.” //

Calvert: **“We died before we came.”**

b. Compassion Response to Attack? Bitter? Harsh? Cold? NO! Humble!

v. 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through 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 1st 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, w HEAD DOWN

Church Elder - '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.'

v. 31 remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears

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

v. 28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Sheep are dirty... lice, ticks, worms...unintelligent, wayward, obstinate... Yet...flock of God Father, purchased by blood of God the Son, overseers apptd by God Holy Spirit...Trinity committed to welfare of people
John Stott

Evangelism, Edification, Encouragement: Wove Together Paul's Ministry

Paul NOT COLD, UNCARING Theologian / FATHER, Friend

vs. 36-38 when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

c. Clean 1) In what he Did NOT Do vs. 33-34 I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.

// Samuel to Israel... "Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the LORD... 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?... "You have not cheated or oppressed us," they replied. "You have not taken anything from anyone's hand."¹ Samuel 12.1-4

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

Clean 2) In what he DID > Not ENOUGH to Say 'I did not DO Anything!'

CALLING to FULFILL > Ministry to COMPLETE > Different DUTIES

v. 26-27 I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Solemn Responsibility of Prophet Ezekiel ---"I made you a watchman ... 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 also UNDER ORDERS to TELL Others: Judgment and Deliverance

v. 28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to 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 9 Men on Team > Mentored by Paul!

v. 4 Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus.

v. 6 *we* sailed away from Philippi / LUKE back Stayed in PHILIPPI

Paul was TEAM PLAYER > Churches Paul planted LED by Teams

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

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

e. Confident > He is Leaving – GOD REMAINS > By Word & Spirit

1) For Himself vs. 22-24 " And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God"

Paul's Primary Concern NOT SAFETY or SURVIVAL > But SERVICE

Age 20 took v. 24 as LIFE VERSE > 49 yrs. LATER > GOD is Faithful!

Do we Value our LIVES more than our WITNESS for Jesus? SAFETY!?

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

vs. 29,30 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the 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

v. 20 I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house

From PULPIT & in PRIVATE > BIG MEETING & SMALL GROUPS

v. 21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

v. 24 to testify to the gospel of the grace of God

v. 25 I have gone about preaching the kingdom

v. 27 I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God

Xtian Woman in Singapore > Excited about Modern Prophet in church

SO EXCITING >> He is RIGHT about 30% of the TIME!

I MORE Excited about 66 Books that are RIGHT 100% of the TIME!

v. 32 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

Word that SAVED them will Continue to SANCTIFY them

3) In Christ > Scripture reveals JESUS CHRIST – Who is? What did?

Apostles > MSG – Glory, Nature, Exclusivity of Jesus

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

Paul ENDS Msg to Ephes Elders w/ WORDS of Jesus, Found Only Here

As Apostle of Jesus – Direct Communication with RISEN LORD

SUPER Beatitude > Tells How to be MORE BLESSED >> GIVE!

v. 35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

PAUL found this Blessing / Tireless Gave to GOD & His CHURCH

MANY HERE also Found these WORDS of Jesus to be TRUE in their OWN Lives Remember these words of the Lord Jesus himself!

Luke 2 Vol/ Intentional // Vol 1 Jesus on Earth / 2 Paul: Apostle of Jesus

1. Both traveled to Jerusalem with their disciples
2. Both are opposed by hostile Jews who plot against their lives
3. Both make passion predictions on the journey, including their being handed over to Gentiles
4. Both declare a readiness to lay down their lives
5. Both declare their determination to complete their ministry
6. Both express abandonment to the will of God

Congregational Prayer

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over many waters.

The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth and strips the forests bare, and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"

Thank the Lord for revealing His Glory in His Word and His Church!

Ask Him to show us more Glory!

The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people!

May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Amen.

