

180308 Acts 20 3-D Church

Acts 19 - two years of ministry - and the riot in ephesus - Paul Completes His Ministry in Greece. Paul made a final visit to the churches of Macedonia and Achaia, spending the winter in Corinth.

Acts 20:1 After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia. Most likely Phillipi 2 Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece 3 and stayed three months. Corinth - wanted to visit after writing 1 Cor while in Ephesus - wrote Romans while in Corinth And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. 4 And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. The men listed here (Acts 20:4) as accompanying Paul represent all the areas of his missionary work. 5 These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. 6 But we sailed away from Phillipi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. his reason for going to Jerusalem was to take a collection from his Gentile churches to the needy Christians in Jerusalem -

7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, The first reference in Acts to worship on Sunday. Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. 8 There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. 9 And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus “lucky, fortunate.”, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. 10 But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, “Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.” Raising the dead like Jesus - Talitha Cumi “Little girl, I say to you, arise.”Mark 5 (Acts 9 Peter & Tabitha - John 11 Lazarus come forth)11 Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten (Matt 26), and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. 12 And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

13 Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot. 14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. 15 We sailed from there, and the next day came opposite Chios. The following day we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next day we came to Miletus. 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; it will take way too long if Paul actually stopped in Ephesus for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost.

17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them:

Most of the time in Acts, we see Paul the evangelist; but here in Acts 20, we get a unique picture of Paul the pastor – what was important to him as a leader and shepherd of God’s people - very similar to Paul’s letters

“You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Intimacy - Humility - Tears - Trials - built up relational capital - comes at a cost

QUOTE — *“I don’t want to be hurt anymore” also means “I don’t want to love people.” Love requires risk and vulnerability.*

Large church gathering and community groups

Kept nothing back - spoke the truth in love - preached it - explained it - offensive - helpful

Always helpful to move people towards repentance - Paul was an open book example

22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

Being led by the Spirit means being in a place where we don’t know what is going to happen.

QUOTE: Paul Tripp — *The storm, the trial, the disappointment are not interruptions of God’s plan of grace they are loving and effective tools of that grace.... God’s plan for you is very different from what you would’ve had for yourself, his wisdom and grace leads you where you didn’t plan to go.*

24 But **none of these things move me**; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

A life surrendered to the mission of Jesus - is not distracted or derailed - knows the destiny - is in it for the long haul - end is joy!

I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved. (Psalm 16:8)

Paul speaks of *my course*. Paul had *his* race to run. We each we have our own race to run. Everyone should have some form of ministry that they are dedicated to doing.

25 “And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more.

Paul’s great love and concern for the leaders and the congregation in Ephesus was simply a reflection of Jesus’ great love and concern for them.

Paul’s life mirrored the life of Jesus.

- Like Jesus, Paul traveled to Jerusalem with a group of his disciples.
- Like Jesus, Paul was opposed by hostile Jews who plotted against his life.
- Like Jesus, Paul made or received three successive predictions of his coming sufferings in Jerusalem, including being handed over to the Gentiles.
- Like Jesus, Paul declared his readiness to lay down his life.
- Like Jesus, he was determined to complete his ministry and not be deflected from it.
- Like Jesus, he expressed his abandonment to the will of God.

26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to 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.

The first idea behind being a shepherd is *feeding* God's people. Paul declared the whole counsel of God - everything as it pertains to who Jesus is, who you are, and the Gospel (NT)

Shepherds don't only *feed*; they also *lead*. Under the guidance of the Chief Shepherd and in the community of God's people, they lead the people of God to where God wants them to be.

Which He purchased with His own blood

- The sheep need to remember that God has appointed shepherds to feed and lead them.
- The shepherds need to remember that the flock belongs to God, and not to them. Jesus said to Peter feed my sheep, feed my lambs

Considering the greatness of the price, this calls leaders among God's people to be dedicated and godly: **His own blood**.

Hebrews 13:17 *Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.*

29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.

He knew that a pastor, a leader among God's people has to do more than only **feed** and **lead** – he also has to **protect**.

30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.

Imagine how *these men listening to Paul* would have received this. It would be hard to believe, and like the disciples with Jesus, many of them would say, "Not me, Lord!"

Speaking perverse things: This is their *method* – they would *twist* what was good.

To draw away the disciples after themselves: This is their *motivation* – they wanted a following. Ego can make people do things that they *never* thought they would do.

31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

Remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears: Paul asked them to have the same careful concern for the people of God that he himself had.

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- It was a long-term care (**for three years**)
- It was a constant care (**did not cease**)
- It was a watchful care (**to warn**)
- It was a universal care (**everyone**)
- It was a heart-felt care (**with tears**)

32 “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

Paul concludes by trying to communicate his heart, his *motive* in ministry. He wasn’t in it for himself, but for God’s glory and for the building up of God’s people. **Laboring like this** means that Paul was a hard worker for God’s glory.

36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Weeping - indicative of relational investment - serving, suffering, sacrificing - together

What should a Gospel Church look like -Theological - Relational - Missional

Theological

Vs 20-21 - 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Vs 24 - to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Vs 25 - I have gone preaching the kingdom of God

27 For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.

verse 30 - He is concerned about men from within them teaching perverse things - false things - untruth.

32 “So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Unless you know the truth about who you are and who god is, you will never know either well.

Preach and Teach - unhesitatingly - kept back nothing - that would lead to repentance - a mark that the Bible is true, is that it offends every person in every culture - in different places and ways.

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Not only unhesitatingly - but helpful - verse 32 - now I commit you to god and the word of His grace which can build you up

1 timothy , 2 tim, titus = sound doctrine = sound = healthy

Truth is a means to an end - it is food for your heart, soul and character. All disease - all lack of health in your heart and soul - is because the truth it not dwelling in you richly

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly

Lack courage, love, joy, - it is because you are thinking about the truth, you aren't embracing the truth, you haven't figured out how to get the truth deep down in your heart - so that it is fruitful in your life, gives you health in your life.

Relational

Verse 1 - embraced them,

18 "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials

20.. and taught you publicly and from house to house

31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Publicly and house to house - truth was in home groups - house to house - public alone wasn't enough - where truth really works down into your heart - when you are engaged in the word with other believers - gets in through conversations - groups - study - talking and weeping together and being together

You have to be deeply involved in community.

Hebrews 13:17 - Do this so their work will be a joy not a burden - Relationship with your shepherd both have joy - commit to that community - you have to belong to a community - deeply invested under their direction learning the truth - house to house - life to life -

Church should be a place of Tears -

Paul is saying I came to be with you - to be with means to be exposed - all parts of your life are visible

All points of you life are connected. Social media - control of how you are connected - easy to hide - I came to live, eat, work, play, - lived a completely transparent life before you.

Lived in weakness and humility - humility is extremely important

Humility is only truly found in the gospel - received identity - received righteousness - received salvation

You will never be able to show people who you really are - you will never be able to be honest with others or yourself

Loathing and ego inflation - being a christian gets you off the spectrum - grace changes everything. Gospel - you are a more wicked than you dared believe - and if you believe the Gospel, you realize you are more loved than you ever dared imagine - grace is being God's delight, love, based on His performance not yours - loved now just as much as you will be a billion years from now.

More realistic about your flaws - infinite balm and consolation of the unbroken unconditional love of god

You can finally take the mask off - you are not afraid of looking weak, not anxious about what people think, your not getting distressed about getting distressed

Paul wasn't a polished professional - he always felt overwhelmed - unable to effectively communicate to you the beauty of the Gospel- but when I spoke unhesitatingly, desiring to be help - weakness - the strength of God was apparent, in humility and trembling - displays the power of God

People Humbled and moved by the gospel - trembling - but filled with love and humility - will be more effective at displaying a loving savior than the polished person - being like Christ-humbled himself and went to the cross

A people of the truth - have to stay humble - to prevent having an attitude of superiority - whe we are a people who are of the truth, not hesitating about the truth, not shrinking back from the truth, but at the same time humble - not attacking, not taking heads off, or shoving things down their throat, pointing out all their faults - that is a real church.

Friendships - if you have truth and humility - you can have real connections, friendships, community, family.

Very end - when he finished speaking - he knelt down and prayed - embraced - kissed - cried

Friendship - the importance of friendship - two people shoulder to shoulder looking at something else - friendship two people kneeling before the same thing - same thing amazes, motivates, attracts, awes, them

Christians- any two people who kneel to Jesus - transformed by grace - they can be friends

Friends with people you never imagined you would be friends with.

We have the ability to have friendship with people we have nothing in common - zero - but if you have Christ in common - friends - Ephesians 2 he has toppled the barrier between jew and greek

Missional - running his race, fulfilling his calling,

Luke is trying to get you to compare Paul to Jesus - and it is the key to truth, tears and ties.

Paul is walking in the footsteps of Christ. Unlike Jesus - Paul is surrounded by friends - Jesus is with Him and will never leave him or forsake him.

Jesus was facing the most suffering - loneliness ever - brings peter, james and john with him into his suffering - I don't want to do this alone and they fall asleep.

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Next day God the Father abandons Jesus on the cross.

Jesus experienced ultimate loneliness so that we would never have to experience loneliness.

Friends with God and with each other.