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Acts 20

Acts 20:1-3

After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had encouraged them and said farewell, he left to go to Macedonia. When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. And he spent three months there. 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.

† Paul's ministry was marked by both encouragement and opposition. Jewish plots repeatedly forced changes in his plans, but God still directed his journey.

† Josephus (Antiquities 20.2.3) mentions similar Jewish plots against those seen as opposing their traditions.

Acts 20:4-6

And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, Gaius of Derbe, Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. Now these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas. We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and reached them at Troas within five days; and we stayed there for seven days.

† Luke reenters with the "we" sections, showing he was present as an eyewitness. Paul's team represented multiple regions, symbolizing the unity of Jew and Gentile in the mission.

Acts 20:7-9

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. Now there were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were gathered. And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the windowsill, 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.

† The early church gathered on the first day of the week, marking the shift from Sabbath to the Lord's Day. The story of Eutychus shows both human weakness and God's power.

Acts 20:10-12

But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for he is still alive." When Paul had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. They took

the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

† God used Paul to restore Eutychus, confirming His power and comforting the believers. The breaking of bread again emphasized fellowship and remembrance of Christ.

Acts 20:13-16

But we went on ahead to the ship and set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land. And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios, and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day after that we came to Miletus. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hurrying, if possible, to be in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost.

† Paul's urgency to reach Jerusalem showed his dedication to God's timing. His travels show the precision of Luke's eyewitness account.

Acts 20:17-21

From Miletus he sent word to Ephesus and called to himself the elders of the church. And when they came 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, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and trials which came upon me through plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was beneficial, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."

† Paul reminded the Ephesian elders of his faithful ministry, marked by humility, tears, and trials. His preaching was

consistent: repentance and faith.

Acts 20:22-24

"And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that chains and afflictions await me. 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 God's grace."

† Paul's life was dedicated to completing the mission Christ gave him. His courage reflected Christ's own example of facing Jerusalem with resolve.

Acts 20:25-27

"And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all people. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God."

† Paul declared his innocence because he had faithfully proclaimed God's whole counsel. This reflected Ezekiel's watchman principle.

Acts 20:28-30

"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. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things to draw away the disciples after them."

† Paul warned of false teachers, both external and internal. The church must be vigilant.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (CD 20.14-15) warned of false shepherds, a theme fulfilled in Paul's charge to the elders.

Acts 20:31-32

"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. And now I entrust 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."

† Paul commended them to God and His word, showing reliance on divine grace rather than himself.

Acts 20:33-35

"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands served my own needs and the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this way 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.'"

† Paul set an example of selflessness and hard work. The quote from Jesus, though not recorded in the Gospels, was preserved in apostolic tradition.

Acts 20:36-38

When he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And they all began to weep aloud and embraced Paul, and repeatedly kissed him, 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.

† The farewell at Miletus was filled with love and sorrow. Paul's bond with the elders showed the depth of Christian fellowship.

How it applies to us today

† Ministry requires humility, perseverance, and boldness in declaring the whole counsel of God.

† Believers must be alert against false teaching and protect the flock of God.

† Selfless service and generosity reflect Christ's teaching and Paul's example.

† True fellowship is marked by love, prayer, and shared tears.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.2.3 – Jewish plots and opposition

† Ezekiel 33:4-6 – Watchman imagery applied by Paul

† Dead Sea Scrolls, CD 20.14-15 – Warnings of false shepherds

† Delphi and Ephesian inscriptions – Archaeological confirmations of Paul's journeys

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