

The Way - And Now I Commend You

Acts 20:13-38

Sermon Notes

Dr. Ed Scheuerman

SUMMARY

- Paul exhorts the elders from the church in Ephesus to watch over themselves and their flock. In the tearful good-bye, we see the depth of relationship between Paul these elders.

Introduction

- Background to Paul's 3rd missionary journey (use map)
 - Travels north by land through Galatia into Asia
 - Important issue for Paul: the collection for the Jerusalem Christians
 - Impacted where he went, how he traveled and with whom
 - Paul's relationship with the church at Ephesus
- Acts 20:1-6—overview of early stage of Paul's 3rd missionary journey
- Acts 20:7-12 Eutychus
 - 7—"first day of the week"
 - Worship included... breaking of the bread; teaching
 - Cf. 2:42: Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking of bread, Prayer
 - "intended to leave the next day" so "kept on talking until midnight"
 - 8—factors that caused sleep
 - "talking until midnight... many lamps... in the upstairs room"
 - 9—Eutychus
 - "seated in a window"—to get fresh air to stay awake?;"third story!"
 - Fell, picked up dead
 - 10—Paul went down
 - "put his arms around him"; "Don't be alarmed"; "He's alive!"
 - 11—"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**"
- Walking distances
 - Troas > Assos (about 35-40 miles)
 - Ephesus > Miletus (about 40 miles)
- 13-15—itinerary, moving at a fast pace
 - 16—because Paul wanted to get to Jerusalem
 - Led by the Spirit, knowing a threat awaited him there

Good-byes/loss/transition

- Feel the weight of GRIEF/LOSS, even when for positive reasons

20:17 Setting

- Cf. Joshua 24; I Samuel 12; John 17; words of encouragement & exhortation

I. Paul's self-reflection (Acts 20:18-24)

- a. (18-21) Paul's look to the past
 - "You **know**"
 - How Paul lived
 - What Paul preached

- b. (22-24) Paul's look to the future
 - And NOW, compelled by the HS
 - I am going to Jerusalem
 - Not **knowing** what will happen to me there
 - I only **know**
 - That in every city: prison and hardships
 - Being in the center of God's will is the BEST place to be, even if it's not the SAFEST place to be
 - **HOWEVER**, I consider my life worth nothing to me
 - My only aim is to finish the race
 - Cf. Heb. 12:1-3 Jesus' example

II. Paul's fear for them (Acts 20:25-35)

- a. Concern for them (25-31)
 - You will not see me again
 - **THEREFORE**
 - I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you
 - Keep watch over...
 - Yourselves (first priority, enables for the second)
 - And all the flock (cf. John 21—Jesus w/ Peter)
 - So be on your guard!
- b. Commissioning of them to God (20:32-35)
 - **And now** (v. 32—cf. rock)
 - I commit you
 - To **God**
 - And to **the word of His grace** (Joshua 1:8-9)
 - Which can **build you up**—Paul's desire/goal
 - And give you an inheritance among all those who are **sanctified**. (Set apart FOR A PURPOSE—like a butcher)
 - I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing
 - You yourselves **know** that these hands of mine
 - In everything I did, I **showed** you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak
 - Remembering the words of the Lord Jesus Himself
 - "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

III. Paul's Farewell (Acts 20:36-38)

- When Paul had finished speaking
 - He knelt down
 - With all of them
 - And prayed
- They all wept
- Then they accompanied him to the ship.
- Saying good-byes

CONCLUSION

- Review
- Challenge
 - What losses are those around you experiencing?
 - How can you use God's word to help them?
 - Does the way you live give credibility to the Gospel you preach?
 - Are you pouring into others' spiritual growth from a position of a strong personal walk with God?
 - Do you give generously, intentionally and intelligently?
 - Are you comfortable with tears?

The Way - And Now I Commend You

Acts 20:13-38

Group Discussion Guide

Dr. Ed Scheuerman

1. What losses are those around you experiencing?
2. How can you use God's word to help them?
3. How would you compare/contrast this passage with one of the following?
 - Joshua 24:1-15
 - I Samuel 12:1-25
 - John 17:1-26
4. Does the way you live give credibility to the Gospel you preach?
5. How does Hebrews 12:1-3 help us to make it through difficult times?
6. Are you pouring into others' spiritual growth from a position of a strong personal walk with God? (cf. II Timothy 2:2)
7. Do you give generously, intentionally and intelligently?
8. How have others given generously to you? What did you do to express your gratitude?
9. Are you comfortable with tears?
10. What do you think the elders talked about on their walk back to Ephesus? What would you have discussed?