

Paul in Acts 20

Acts 20

Roughly 53-57AD

3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey

Paul has been to Ephesus and had to leave due to rioting

### **1. Troas via Macedonia – Acts 20:1-6**

- 1 – Paul called companions to him
- 2 – exhorted them; leaves to Greece
- 3 – stayed 3 months (*winter?*); Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians written here
- 4 – running buddies: Sopater (Rm. 16:21), Gaius & Aristarchus (Ac. 19:29), Secundus (2<sup>nd</sup> son or slave), Tychicus (Eph., Col.), Trophimus (Ac. 21:29)
- 5 – waited at Troas (seaport on Aegean Sea; Macedonia call occurred here)
- 6 – in Troas 7 days. Why? Paul wanted to worship with them!

### **2. In Troas – Acts 20:7-12**

- 7 – Paul did not use the excuse he was out of town or away to get out of worship
- Met 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week to observe Lord's Supper
- Paul preached until midnight – service probably started at night. Sunday was not revered by culture so they worked then worshipped.
- 8 – many people gathered in multi-story bldg.
- 9 – Eutychus fell asleep, fell over balcony, died. [*danger of sleeping in church!*]
- 10 – Paul revived him
- 11 – they all ate. Spirits cannot eat.
- 12 – young man is alive!

### **3. From Troas to Miletus – Acts 20:13-16**

- 13 – Assos: next port of call
- 14 – Mitylene: similar to commuter train
- 15 – arrives at Miletus finally
- 16 – wanted to go to Ephesus but needs to be in Jerusalem at Pentecost [missed Passover]
  - Had to get off ship, hire ship there and back

- Impossible to quickly leave Ephesus
- Afraid of another riot

#### **4. Ephesian Elders – Acts 20:17-38**

- 17 – 7 sermons of Paul in Acts. Only 1 to Chr.
- 18 – you know what all I have done
- 19 – mentions tears twice [19, 31], not all joy
- 20 – kept back nothing; taught publicly & house to house
- 21 – testifying to all repentance and faith
- 22 – preaching not about job security
- 23 – he knows the road ahead is not easy
- 24 – none of that moves him – he will preach
- 25 – He also knows he might never see these brethren again!
- 26 – they know he is pure. He has done more than his job
- 27 – same job today: the whole counsel. 2 Tim. 4:2 – Marshall Keeble
- 28 – key: elder’s job to oversee flock > purchased with the blood of Jesus
- 29 – be ready, grievous wolves are coming
- 30 – problems will also come from within
- 31 – key: watch & be ready
- 32 – Word of God builds up & provides inheritance
- 33 – Paul has not coveted
- 34 – he has worked for what he has
- 35 – words of Christ only found here
- 36 – finished: kneeled down & prayed
- 37 – all were weeping
- 38 – literally having to pull themselves away, on their tiptoes to see Paul’s ship leave

**Lessons:**

1. We observe the Lord's Supper on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week! How many weeks have had a 1<sup>st</sup> day? All.
2. We better not make excuses when we are away about not worshipping – Paul planned his whole trip around it!
3. The work of an elder is a great responsibility.
4. Jesus' own blood purchased us from sin.
5. People will show up outside/inside the church & try to derail us – watch & be ready!

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