

## History in the Making

### “Understanding the Book of Acts-Part Thirty-Four

**Introduction:** The rest of Acts will chronicle the journey of Paul to Rome (in the long run)—but in our text today, it will be his trip back to Jerusalem.

- ✓ The description of this critical trip to Jerusalem is given considerable detail—great exactitude.
- ✓ Luke, the one writing Acts, was actually accompanying Paul— “we passages.”
- ✓ Section divides into 3 simple sections
  - Ministry and miracle in Troas
  - Trip to Miletus and the invitation to the Ephesian elders
  - Farewell address to the elders of Ephesus

#### I. Ministry and Miracle in Troas (7-12)

##### A. Worship on the first day of the week

*Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.*

*Acts 20:7 NKJV*

1. Earliest text that infers worship on Sunday.
2. Breaking of bread (Eucharist) was part of their gathering.
3. Probably AD 59—maybe April 24
4. Meeting held in the evening—most of the converts were slaves and are free only in the evening
5. Apparently no clock-watchers—continued until midnight

##### B. Eutychus falls asleep, fell from a 3<sup>rd</sup> story and killed

1. Air heavy with smoke of torches—even by a window he became sleepy.
2. Probably worked all day—now in stuffy atmosphere—fell asleep, fell three stories—it killed him.
3. Paul rushed down—said he would live.

##### C. Paul resumed his message, broke bread (probably long past midnight) and the young man was restored.

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## II. Trip to Miletus and the Invitation to the Ephesian Elders

*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; 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. Acts 20:13-17 NKJV*

- A. Luke and the rest of the team boarded the ship at Troas
  - 1. Paul waited a little longer and went by foot to Assos (about 20 miles).
  - 2. Ship had to round Cape Lectum to get to Assos
- B. From Assos-to Mitylene, then opposite island of Chois, then Samos-next day to Miletus
- C. Paul hurrying to Jerusalem for Pentecost decided not to stop at Ephesus (May 29-AD 57)
- D. The ship would stay several days at shore/Miletus
- E. Message to Ephesian elders (30 miles north) to meet him (Farewell/Last will and testament)

## III. Farewell Address to the Elders in Ephesus

NOTE: One of the most touching passages in Scripture, certainly in the book of Acts. Disclosure of what authentic Gospel ministry is to look like (church about 25 years old)

- ✓ Changes in my 30 years
- ✓ I've seen at least 4 categories in Christian leadership
  - Professionals: (vocation only, all about benefits, days off, perks)
  - Performers: (Work the crowds, false doctrine)
  - Prima Donna: (All about themselves; more important)
  - Pastors:

Paul in this text describes what pastoral ministry looks like—Principles of Godly Leadership  
(Sunday school teacher, small group leader, ministry leader, board members, staff members)

NOTE: People who want position/titles/CHECKLIST

## Reflect

### A. Sincere character

*And when they had come to him, he said to them: "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. Acts 20:18-20 NKJV*

1. Lived among them (18) hid nothing
2. Served with humility (19)
3. Persistent through trials (19)
4. Spoke with integrity (20) kept nothing back

### B. Embrace the Gospel simplicity

*Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:21 NKJV*

1. Repentance-turn from the old life
2. Faith in Christ-His atoning work

### C. Possess a surrendered heart

*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. 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. Acts 20:22-24 NKJV*

1. Walking by faith
2. Obeying the Spirit's leading
3. Resisting self-preservation
4. Knowing the One who called
5. Committed to a strong finish

### D. Live with a focused vision

*"And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 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." Acts 20:25-27 NKJV*

1. At times they want to learn something other than truth
2. Whole counsel of God

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#### E. Accept the somber charge

*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. 29 For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. Acts 20:28-31 NKJV*

1. Watch your own life
2. Shepherd the flock

(ILL) Health/Wealth movement—picking up the pieces

#### F. Commit to a life of sacrifice

*"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.'" Acts 20:32-35 NKJV*

1. Take nothing
2. Work hard
3. Know the blessing of generosity

#### Conclusion: Touching moment

*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. Acts 20:36-38 NKJV*

- ✓ Church he planted
- ✓ Timothy later
- ✓ John/Mark
- ✓ Lost their first love

#### Importance of the Word

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*"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." Acts 20:32 NKJV*

- ✓ Won't see them again
- ✓ No longer my presence
- ✓ God's Word will remain
- ✓ Will build you up
- ✓ Will give you assurance
- ✓ Call to the church today—into lives of young people—children—word of grace
- ✓ May not have each other, but have the Word