

Acts 20

Acts 20.1-6

V1 – What uproar? The riot at Ephesus

-Paul went to Macedonia by way of Troas

-We know this by combining several other Scriptures:

-2 *Cor. 2.12-13* – He waited at Troas for Titus, but Titus was delayed in arriving

-2 *Cor. 7.6* – Paul met him at Corinth

V2 – What 3 cities had he preached at in Macedonia? Thessalonica, Philippi, Berea

-"Greece" = Corinth

V3 – Paul had collected money for the poor saints at Jerusalem (See 1 *Cor. 16.1-5*)

-This is a possible reason for the plot, but also because of the hatred that the Jews had for Paul as a traitor

-Paul wrote *Romans* at this time (*Rom. 15.23, 16.1*)

V4 – Why did 7 men accompany him? Body guards

V5 – What change? 2nd "we" passage begins: v 5-15

-Notice again the four "we" passages (where Luke joined the missionary party):

-*Acts 16.10-17*

-*Acts 20.5-15*

-*Acts 21.1-18*

-*Acts 27.1-28.16*

-Luke was left at Philippi on the Second Missionary Journey (*Acts 16.12*)

-So Luke was working in and around Philippi

V6 – Why did Paul stay at Troas for 7 days? To be there on Sunday for the Lord's Supper and for worship

Acts 20.7-12

V7 – Unimpeachable evidence for the first day of the week for worship:

-*Luke 6.5* – Jesus is Lord and master and is superior to the Sabbath

-*Acts 20.16* – Paul was in a great hurry to reach Jerusalem

– v 6 – 50 days left – **Why tarry 7 days?**

-*John 20.19, 26* – The apostles met on Sunday

-1 *Cor. 16.2* – The collection is to be gathered on the first day of week

-*Rev. 1.10* – The Lord's Day

-**Why did they meet in the evening?** Many Gentiles were not free men and women and had to serve their slave-owners during the day

-This verse makes a reference to the Lord's Supper that was taken before Paul started speaking

-They had met on the first day of the week for this event (which is why Paul tarried in Troas

for a week: waiting for Communion)

V 8 – Why did Eutychus fall asleep? Fumes from the torches, a long service, late at night

V 9 – Luke (a doctor) was present, so we know for certain that Eutychus was really dead, after falling from the third floor

V 10 – Two Old Testament references

-1 Kings 17.21 – The widow of Zarephath (oil and bread) – her son died, and Elijah fell on him 3 times and raised him from the dead

-2 Kings 4.34ff – The raising of the son of the Shunammite woman

-Some have erroneously suggested artificial respiration

V 11 – This "breaking of bread" refers to a love feast (agape), not the Lord's Supper (See Acts 2.42 for the usage of the phrase)

-We do not partake of the Lord's Supper early on Monday morning

V 12 – Eutychus was raised from the dead, which was a great comfort to the congregation at Troas

Acts 20.13-16

V 13-15 – The journey of Paul in this paragraph: Troas to Assos (overland) to Mitylene (by boat) to Chios and Samos

V 16 – Paul sailed past Ephesus – **Why?** Because he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem by the Day of Pentecost

Acts 20.17-21

-Previous speeches of Paul:

-Acts 13.16-41 – Antioch of Pisidia – to Jews – therefore, many Old Testament references

-Acts 17.22-31 – Athens – pagans, Stoics, Epicureans - therefore, many Greek references

This time, he was speaking to the elders of the church at Ephesus

-The tone of the speech was very defensive, as if he had been verbally attacked

V 17 – **Why did he call for the elders of the church?** Because they were (and are today) the shepherds over the flock of God

V 18 – Paul reminded them of the time that he had spent at Ephesus

V 19 – **How did Paul describe his time there?** Many tears and trials and plots of the Jews

V 20 – **What was Paul's philosophy of preaching?** Declaring what needed to be said, teaching both publicly and privately

-**Where did he teach publicly?** In the synagogue and school of Tyrannus (Acts 19.9)

V 21 – What part of the New Testament doctrine did he emphasize? Repentance and faith

Acts 20.22-24

V 22ff – His prospects for the future

V 23 – His future? Bonds and afflictions

V 24 – How did Paul view his own life? Of no account, compared to spreading the gospel of Christ

-His message to Timothy – 2 Timothy 4.7 – "...I have finished the course..."

Acts 20.25-35

V 25 – He will see them no more

-From other Scriptures, where did Paul hope to take the gospel? Spain (*Rom. 15.23-25*)

-However, there is no evidence that he ever made it to Spain

V 26 – What did he mean in v 26?

-That he had always preached the truth about Christ and the gospel; it was up to his listeners to make a decision

-He made a similar statement to the Jews at Corinth (*Acts 18.6*)

V 27 – What is "the whole purpose of God"? The entire plan of salvation

Acts 20.28-35

V 28 – Message of v 28? 1 Peter 5.3 – Elders are to be examples to the flock

-How does the Holy Spirit choose elders for a congregation? The congregation applies the qualifications of elders as given in 1 Tim. 3 and Titus 1 and selects the right men accordingly

-In other words, the Holy Spirit does not just supernaturally choose men, but works indirectly through the local congregation

-Notice the use of the word "shepherd" in this verse

-This is the Greek word from which we get the word "pastor"

-So "pastor" does not refer to the preacher, but to the elders (unless the preacher also serves as an elder)

-This is a major error of most denominational churches – the burden of the church should not rest on the minister, but on the body of elders

-Can a preacher serve as an elder? See 1 Timothy 5.17, 1 Peter 5.1-2 (Peter was a preacher, but also an apostle and an elder), 2 John 1, 3 John 1 (John was also a preacher and apostle, as well as an elder in the First Century church)

V 29 – This prophecy came true – See Revelation 2.1-7 – The church there was dealing with

false teachers (the Gnostics)

-In what sense does Satan not spare the flock? He has no mercy whatsoever on the church, even in mission areas where the church is struggling

V 30 – **Where would the false teachers come from?** From the eldership itself

V 31 – **How long had Paul worked at Ephesus?** 3 years

-What warning did Paul give these elders? To be on the alert (Satan is very crafty)

V 32 – **To what did Paul commend these righteous men?** To God and to the word of the gospel

V 33 – **What did he make sure not to do at Ephesus?** Covet (and steal) anyone's money

-Is a preacher (or missionary) ever in a position to do that? Yes, because of his position before the congregation

V 34 – **How was Paul supported while he preached at Ephesus?** He worked with his own hands (making tents) and thus had supported himself and his fellow missionaries while in Ephesus

V 35 – Sayings of Jesus – the 9th beatitude (the first 8 are in *Matt. 5.3-12*)

-What is the meaning of this 9th beatitude? If we are given a choice, it is better to help someone else, than to be helped by someone else (just the opposite of how the world thinks)

-Where are the next 7 (and last) beatitudes of Jesus Christ found? Scattered throughout the book of *Revelation* (starting with *Rev. 1.3*)

V 36 - **Their position for the prayer?** Kneeling

-Must we always kneel in prayer today? No, the publican didn't even bow his head, so the position of the heart is more important than the position of the body

V 37 – **What was their reaction to the words of Paul?** Weeping and great sorrow

V 38 – **Why were they so sorrowful?** Because they would never see Paul again

Revised 2012-11-26