

Paul's Third Missionary Journey Acts 18:23-21:17 (Late AD 53-Mid AD 57)

1. Paul travels to Ephesus. Acts 19
2. Through Macedonia and Greece. Acts 20:1-6
3. Eutychus raised from the dead in Troas. Acts 20:1-11
4. Troas to Miletus (Paul summons the elders of the church in Ephesus to see him.) Acts 20:17-38

Paul's Farewell to the Ephesians Church.

I wanted to highlight this event because it reveals the apostle Paul's heart in regard to ministry and his relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ. Let's read the account together.

As we do, what are some things that you read that give you a glimpse at Paul's Heart for and Philosophy of ministry? Acts 20:17-38

Let's break it down together:

Acts 20:18-19

He was present with them. He saw his ministry as service to the LORD. He served with humility and tears. (He modeled Christ and was emotionally involved in the life of the church).

Why is it important to view our ministry lives as ultimately serving the Lord and not just people?

Acts 20:20,21

Paul would hold nothing back in his teaching and preaching. He would tell anyone. His message concerned repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The message of the gospel is always connected to repentance from sin and to God. Rom 2:1-5

Acts 20:22-24

Paul considered this present life meant nothing to him, other than living it to finish his journey of serving God successfully. To stay faithful to the end. The task God gave him was to preach the gospel. Luke 9:22-26

Acts 20:25-27

What does Paul mean he is innocent of anyone's blood? This is a reference to the OT Passages of Ezekiel 3:16-21, 33:1-9.

1 Corinthians 4:1-5; 9:16-17

Acts 20:28-31

He tells the elders of the church they are to be shepherds of God's flock. Caring for them, watching over them, feeding them. Leading them to safe pasture with the staff and disciplining with the rod. They were to be on the lookout for those who would come in and try to deceive them away from the true message of the gospel. 1 Timothy 1:6-7, 19-20; 4:1-7; Rev. 2:1-7

Acts 20:32-37

Note the emotion and love the people had for one another. This is true church life. The sharing of one another's lives. Paul, knowing that he cannot be with them physically anymore entrusts them to God and His Word.

What evidence will there be that we have really trusted people into God's care?

5. Miletus to Rhodes and Patara to Tyre, through Caesarea and on to Jerusalem. Acts 21:1-14

The Warning from Agabas.

"It's fascinating to think of how much this segment of Paul's life mirrored the life of Jesus.

- Like Jesus, Paul traveled to Jerusalem with a group of his disciples.*
- Like Jesus, Paul was opposed by hostile Jews who plotted against his life.*
- Like Jesus, Paul made or received three successive predictions of his coming sufferings in Jerusalem, including being handed over to the Gentiles.*
- Like Jesus, Paul declared his readiness to lay down his life.*
- Like Jesus, he was determined to complete his ministry and not be deflected from it.*
- Like Jesus, he expressed his abandonment to the will of God.*

ii. Would we expect any difference? Is the servant greater than his Master?

We too should expect to know the fellowship of His sufferings ([Philippians 3:10](#)). "

(Online Enduring Word Commentary).

Paul in Jerusalem.

Conflict in Jerusalem. Acts 21:15-22:21