

## Acts 20:1-12

Have you ever felt like God was calling you to something that others just wouldn't understand?

### Several Close Loved One's In My Ilfe Have Passed & Their Dying Priorities Were Amazing

1. **My Grandfather** spent the entire year leading up to his passing getting the physical house in order.
2. **Robb Case** established his radio station and several other strategies to care for his family.
3. **Bert Robinson** produced a CD which included his entire family, and musical friends. He prepared his memorial service, and most of the final details to ensure God was glorified.

### Modern Culture Says Take Your Money and Live Life - Head To the Beach

*"Buy the car you've always wanted" "complete your bucket list and be merry."*

### **But The Examples I Mentioned Were Motivated By Their Love For Others**

Over the next few weeks one of the consistent examples we'll see from the Apostle Paul is his love, compassion and encouragement for believers in light of the assignment God has called him to.

Paul's Assignment from the Holy Spirit to Go to Jerusalem, and Intertwined with this Will Be Examples of Compassion & Encouragement to the Church as He's Headed to Jerusalem.

### Intro: God Reveals to Paul Plan for Jerusalem Acts 19:21-22

**19:21** Luke tells us that Paul understood that God wanted him to go to Jerusalem.

**20:16** We learn that he is at least trying to get there by the time of Pentacost.  
It's possible that maybe he was trying to get there for Passover initially.

**20:22-23** Luke tells us that the Holy Spirit is telling Paul that bonds and afflictions await him.

**20:37-38** The Ephesian elders weep since it will be the last time they see Paul

**21: 4** The disciples in Tyre don't want Paul to go to Jerusalem & they say farewell to him.

**21:11-15** Paul could not be persuaded otherwise and was willing to die if necessary.

You might remember that God told Ananias that God would show Saul how much he would suffer for God's glory.

### I. Paul Comforts the Ephesians After the Riot 20:1

#### **Read 20:1**

**Vs.1** *"And after the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples and when he had exhorted them, he departed to go to Macedonia."*

- The first thing we see is a love & compassion for his fellow workers in light of what just happened in Ephesus.
- The city is being turned upside down with the Gospel. God is breaking down barriers and strongholds of the polytheistic culture of the Greeks.
- The silversmiths had revolted against the Gospel and were in fear for their livelihood
- The Gospel was a threat to the commerce of gods and goddess worship.
- But, as the dust settled, and safety wasn't such a threat, Paul gathered the disciples.
- Look at what he does: He **exhorted** them.  
Parakalesas, the same root of parakaleo, and paraklete.
- What Paul is doing here is to minister to his fellow disciples before he leaves

## **II. Paul Comforts the Macedonians in Light of Their Struggles 20:2**

**Vs. 2** *“And when he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece.”*

- We see a similar intention by Paul here in the Macedonian region.
- These are likely the churches in Philippi, Neoplois, Berea, Thessalonica
- Luke doesn't tell us how long Paul went through these regions or much about what this encouragement looked like.
- **Acts 19:22** At this time Paul likely reuniting w/Timothy, Erastus, & others that went ahead.
- Paul likely wrote his last installment to Corinthians during tis time.

### **II Corinthians Tells Us a Little More About What Paul's Comfort to Macedonia Looked Like**

**II Cor. 1:3-8** Paul reveals to Corinthians that comfort and encouragement is on his heart

- He's in Macedonia which is not as wealthy as Corinth & Ephesus
- He arrives in Macedonia & Luke tells us he exhorted & comforted the Macedonia

**II Cor. 7:4-7** Paul reveals that Macedonia gave him no rest. He was hoping to find Titus That gave him stress and anguish.

**II Cor. 8:1-5, 9:1-5** Paul reveals that the Macedonians have given an amazing gift for the oppressed believers in Jerusalem.

- He expects the same from Corinth in their wealth.

The word for comfort is used 19 times in II Corinthians as far as I can tell.

## **III. After Macedonia, Paul Heads to Greece (Likely Athens & Corinth)**

**Vs. 2b-3** *“There he spent 3 months.”*

- Notice that Luke records that Paul was there for 3 months.
- We can assume he was teaching and exhorting disciples there. We know how much correction the Corinthians needed.

### **Something Else Believed to Have Happened During These 3 Months is Letter to the Romans**

- **Acts 19:21** Paul said that after he visits Jerusalem, he wants to go to Rome.
- **Romans 1:9-15** Paul mentions that he longs to visit them, and is excited about the fact that if he gets to see them he knows that both he and they will be mutually encouraged.
- **Romans 15:22-33**

#### **Consider Paul's Words in the Book of Romans**

- *“Make mention of you”*
- *“Always remembering you in my prayers”*
- *“that both of us might be encouraged”*
- *“I am eager to preach the Gospel to you”*
- *“Longing to come to you”*
- *“First enjoyed your company”*
- *“Come to you in joy”*
- *“Find refreshing rest in your company”*

## **IV. Paul Comforts The Believers in Troas 20:4-12**

### **Read Acts 20:4-12**

#### **Vs. 7 “On the first day of the week when we gathered to break bread....”**

- This is the first reference to Christians meeting on the first day of the week.
- Paul & fellow missionaries are planning to leave the next day, so Paul wants to spend time teaching.
- Here we see another example of Paul's passion to disciple others.

#### **Vs. 7 “He prolonged his message until midnight.”**

- In other words, he's trying to make the best of every last second he has in Troas

#### **Vs. 8 Notice that Luke mentions there were many lamps in the upper room**

- Some speculate that Luke may have included this detail because it could have contributed to Eutychus's condition.
- It would have been gas lamps with oil and fumes.
- They are on the 3rd floor and it may have been getting very hot?

#### **Vs. 9 Eutychus falls out the 3rd floor window after he fell asleep listening to Paul all night**

- Interestingly, Luke simply tells us he fell and was picked up dead.
- Luke is a physician and this must be all that was needed to communicate.
- It's interesting that Luke records so many details about the room, the time, the day, etc.
- But when it comes to Eutychus it's just “*he was picked up dead.*”

#### **Vs. 9-10 Paul runs down and falls upon Eutychus and God restores Eutychus' life.**

- This act of falling on Eutychus may sound familiar to you.
- Both Elijah & Elisha laid their own bodies on the bodies of younger boys who had died.
- Through those actions, God chose to bring them back to life.
- Paul may have had this in mind as he ran down 3 floors to throw himself on Eutychus?

#### **Vs. 11 Paul remains dedicated to teaching and encouraging his fellow believers in Troas**

- He goes back up to the 3rd floor, continues to break bread with believers.

#### **Vs. 11 Luke tells us that Paul talked for a long time. He talked until daybreak the next morning.**

#### **Vs. 12 They took Eutychus away and were greatly comforted.**

- Other translations say “*they were not a little comforted*”
- This is akin to Luke saying “*not a little disturbance broke out*”, “*not a small number believed*”

I think we can safely assume that the believers in Troas were comforted by Eutychus' restored life and their time spent with Paul and his preaching.

### **Summary:**

The example we see in Paul in these verses and the next couple weeks reflects a quality of relationship with God and others.

We see a passion for the growth and instruction of others. We see a desire to invest in others. We see a pouring out of Paul himself to minister to others maybe when it's not convenient for him. Or, during a season where the Holy Spirit is reminding him of what will happen in Jerusalem.

How might our lives begin to reflect a similar passion for those around us?

Life doesn't need to completely stop for us to comfort and encourage others. Rather, this should just become a regular part of who we are.

Do we take opportunities to disciple and minister to others as often as we can? To invest in others?