



ACTS - Living in the Promises of Jesus

Acts 20

Lesson 17

In the final third of the Book of Acts, Dr. Luke records Paul's journey to Jerusalem, his arrest there, and his voyage to Rome. The Gospel of Luke follows a similar pattern as Luke describes Christ's journey to Jerusalem to die. Much as Jesus set His face "like a flint" to do the Father's will, so Paul determined to finish his course with joy, no matter what the cost might be. This chapter describes three "farewell events" as Paul closed his ministry in Macedonia, Achaia, and Asia.

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 20

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and Paul*.
Key Words: *God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, Paul/we, and words such as proclaimed/testify/preaching/declare/taught*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used four times in Acts 20. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record what is being contrasted.
4. The term of conclusion, *therefore*, is used three times in Acts 20. Mark each time the word is used. Choose one of those times and record the conclusion and what it was based upon.



Paul's journeys, as recorded in Acts 20, have been marked for you on this map. Use it as an aid to follow Paul as he traveled from Ephesus through the cities in Macedonia, south to cities in Greece, back through Macedonia to Troas, sailing past Ephesus to Miletus.

GREECE: Read Acts 20:1-6

1. Acts 19 recounts the *uproar* in Ephesus that *ceased* when the city clerk advised that the complaints be resolved in a *lawful assembly*. What did Paul do next? Acts 20:1
 - a. According to Acts 19:21, what were Paul's plans?
2. We can see from Acts 20:2, Paul had accomplished the first parts of his Acts 19:21 goal. He had gone through *Macedonia* and had come to *Greece*. Notice on the map that Achaia is Southern Greece. What is the principal city of this area?
 - a. It is believed that Paul spent three months in Corinth and the surrounding area. A plot against Paul was revealed to him as he was about to sail to Syria. Rather than take the long sea voyage, Paul decided to return by land through Macedonia. Acts 20:4 mentioned seven men who accompanied Paul. Many of these men are mentioned in subsequent letters as still being with Paul. If you were Paul, what qualities would you look for in those who would accompany you in your travels?
 - b. These men came from different areas where Paul had previously ministered. List the areas (churches) represented.
3. Notice the word *we* in Acts 20:6. Who can we assume joined Paul?

TROAS: Read Acts 20:7-12

1. Paul stayed in Troas for seven days. What day of the week did the *disciples come together to break bread*?
 - a. What day is mentioned that they got together in 1 Corinthians 16:2?

Note: Observing the *first day of the week* was the common practice of the church.

2. How long did Paul preach on this day? Acts 20:7

a. That may seem like an unreasonable amount of time. Yet, Paul planned to leave the next day. If you were to leave a group of new believers and knew you wouldn't see them again, what would you want to say to them?

1.) Fatigue or sleepiness is not a sign of a lack of spirituality. What helps you to be more alert in church when you are tired?

b. As the time went by and the clock ticked away to midnight, what happened to the young man Eutychus?

c. Describe the way in which Paul ministered to the dead young man.

Challenge: Read the accounts of Elijah and Elisha raising the dead in 1 Kings 17:21-23 and 2 Kings 4:34. Record the similarities.

3. After *he had come up* they broke bread. Breaking bread is usually a reference to taking communion. This was a regular, frequent practice of the church. What are the benefits of taking communion together as a body of believers?

a. Paul had just recently come from Corinth. He would soon be writing a letter of correction to them. One area that he addressed was the taking of communion or *the Lord's Supper*. Read Paul's exhortation to the church in Corinth (1 Corinthians 11:17-26) and answer the following questions.

1.) How were some of them behaving *when they came together as a church*? verses 17-22

2.) What two instructions did Paul quote Jesus to say? verses 24,25

3.) What are we *proclaiming* when we take communion? verse 26

a.) Define the word *proclaim* as it is used in this verse.

4. How does Acts 20:12 describe the emotional result of Eutychus' healing?
 - a. You probably have not experienced something quite as extreme as these believers did as they watched Eutychus fall to the ground, die, and have his life return to him. Yet, as believers, we all have experienced this same kind of *comfort*. Describe the *comfort* you have experienced.

MILETUS: Acts 20:13-16

1. Those who traveled with Paul temporarily went ahead of him, sailing to Assos, where Paul met them. Luke does not record any events of their visits to any of the cities they arrived at on the way to *Miletus*. What city are we told that Paul *decided to sail past*?
 - a. Why did he want to *sail past* this city?

TEARFUL FAREWELL: Read Acts 20:17-38

1. Although Paul was *hurrying to be at Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost*, he had not forgotten those the Lord had raised up to minister in Ephesus. What did he do?
 - a. Paul described to the elders the *manner* he *always lived among* them. Using verses 19-21, 31, 33-35 describe his *manner*.
 - 1.) What can you learn from Paul's example?
2. Paul was determined to go to Jerusalem. What did he *not know*? verse 22
 - a.) What did Paul know? verse 23
3. Record the first phrase of verse 24.
 - a. Using 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 7-11, explain the attitude that enabled Paul to *not be moved*.
 - b. Describe the attitude called for in Hebrews 12:1-3

- c. What must a believer do to be *unmovable*?
 - d. What actions/thinking can cause a believer to be *moved* from their faith. Note: We cannot be *moved* from our salvation. But, we can be *moved* from walking victoriously in Jesus.
4. Record the second phrase of Acts 20:24.
- a. What attitude does a believer have who:
 - counts her life dear to herself*
 - does not count her life dear to herself*
5. Record the third phrase of Acts 20:24.
- a. Describe Paul's attitude as recorded in 2 Timothy 4:6-8.
 - b. Each of our *races* is different. What is God calling you to do in your race right now?
 - 1.) What do you know you are neglecting?
 - c. Paul described his *race* in Acts 20:25-27. Using these verses, explain what was important to him.
6. In Acts 20:28-31, Paul both instructed and warned the Ephesian elders. What were his instructions?
- a. What was his concern/what did he warn them about?
 - b. How are these instructions and concerns applicable today?
7. What words of *the Lord Jesus* did Paul tell them to *remember*?
- a. Read Psalm 112:5-9 and explain the connection between *giving* and *not being moved*.

b. Why is it *more blessed to give than to receive*?

8. Describe Paul's last moments with the Ephesian elders. Acts 20:36-38

a. What is so special about the fellowship that believers who have served together have with one another?

REVIEW: Read Acts 20

1. The healing of Eutychus resulted in increased faith for those who witnessed his return to life. Share a personal experience that resulted in the increase of your faith.
2. How have you been encouraged to not allow circumstances to *move* you?
3. Share one way you might be a caring influence to someone younger in the faith.
4. How has this lesson impacted you?

*Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast,
immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,
knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.
- 1 Corinthians. 15:58*

Observation Worksheet

Acts 20:1-38

After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia. ² Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece ³ and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia--also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. ⁵ These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. ⁶ But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. ⁷ 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. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. ⁹ And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." ¹¹ Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. ¹² And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted. ¹³ 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. ¹⁸ 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, ²¹ testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² 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. ²⁵ 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. ²⁸ 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. ³² 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.' " ³⁶ 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.