

## Acts 20:1-12 – Commitment to the Ministry of Discipleship

### I. Paul Faithfully Comforts and Encourages Believers (1-2)

#### A. Paul Comforts the Disciples Before Leaving (1)

1. After the Riot in Ephesus Paul gathers the disciples together
2. Paul “embraced” (encouraged, comforted, exhorted) them
  - a. The word used is Παρακαλεω (Parakaleo) –
  - b. This word is used three times in this section which seems to indicate that it is the focus of the passage
  - c. Paul is discipling and strengthening the disciples here – He will strengthen (parakaleo) the churches in Macedonia – and after Eutychus is raised from the dead, the church in Troas will be encouraged (parakaleo)
3. Paul leaves to go to Macedonia on his way to Jerusalem

#### B. Paul Comforts The Churches in Macedonia (2)

1. Paul strengthens and exhorts (parakaleo) the churches in Macedonia as he passes through on his way back to Jerusalem
2. Paul isn’t just concerned with evangelism and church planting (although he was focused on that) He also spent much time discipling the believers and growing them in the Lord
  - a. All believers must engage in exhorting one another and being exhorted by one another
  - b. This was an extremely important ministry to Paul and it seems to be the point that Luke is trying to make in this section
3. Paul finally comes to Greece

### II. Paul’s Ministry Plans Are Hindered (3-6)

#### A. Paul’s Travel Plans Are Hindered By Persecution (3)

1. Paul Spends Three Months in Greece (3a)
  - a. During the winter months, sailing across the Mediterranean and Aegean Sea was suspended because of weather
  - b. Paul would have waited out the weather here
  - c. What do you think Paul was doing during this time?
2. Paul Discovers a Plot to Kill Him (3b)
  - a. As Paul was about to set sail for Syria (On his way to Jerusalem) a plot was discovered to kill him
  - b. Probably there were Jews intending to travel on the same ship as Paul
    - i. They were probably going to Jerusalem also to celebrate the Passover
    - ii. When they learned Paul planned to take the same ship, they probably hatched a plan to make sure Paul was lost at sea

- iii. They had no doubt heard of this Paul who was preaching in synagogues and causing riots wherever he went.
  - 3. Paul Changes His Travel Plans (3c)
    - a. Paul decides instead of taking the ship to return back through Macedonia by land
    - b. Rather than risk falling prey to the Jews He decides to go back the way he came (he will take another ship from Philippi in Macedonia)
    - c. Was Paul failing to trust God by changing his plans?
- B. Paul Rejoins His Missionary Helpers (4-6)
  - 1. Paul's Companions Went Ahead to Troas (4-5)
    - a. Luke lists several companions of Paul
    - b. Each of these could be representatives from different cities, we can't be sure
    - c. But these men went on ahead, taking the ship from Greece and wait for Paul in Troas
      - i. The plot was against Paul not them
      - ii. Paul would go by land to a different port and meet them in Troas
  - 2. Paul and Luke Rejoined the Others in Troas (6)
    - a. Notice that the "We" statements begin here again
      - i. More than likely Paul was left in Philippi (some say that he was the Pastor there for four years)
      - ii. Luke rejoins Paul on the mission when he comes back through Philippi
    - b. They sail from Philippi after celebrating the Passover
    - c. They arrived in Troas and stayed there with the group of believers for seven days
- III. Paul and The Church Persevere in The Word [Eutychus] (7-11)
  - A. Paul Ministers to the Church at Troas (7)
    - 1. The Church Gathers on the First Day of the Week
      - a. This is the first record of the Church meeting on Sundays rather than on the seventh day
      - b. They gathered to "break bread" which was a reference to the Lord's supper – they were meeting to worship
      - c. The "Lord's Day" is a specific reference in the NT (κυριακή ημέρα kurike hemera) speaking of Sunday. It is also used in Revelation – John said he was in the Spirit on the Lord's day
    - 2. The Church Hears Paul Preach at Length
      - a. The worship service centered around the proclamation and explanation of the word of God
      - b. Paul speaks to them for a very long time because he planned on leaving the next day
        - i. Paul preached and spoke until midnight

- ii. There was so much he needed for them to hear
- iii. He would never be back to this area
- iv. We will see in the next section as he speaks to the Ephesian elders that his heart was heavy to give them final instructions and warnings

## B. Paul is Hindered By Circumstances (-10)

### 1. Sleepy Eutychus Falls to His Death (8-9)

#### a. Eutychus Fights to Stay Awake (8-9a)

- i. There were many lamps burning in the upper room where they met
- ii. These lamps would have been burning the oxygen in the room and there was many people gathered together breathing making it hot
  - This could be why Eutychus decided to sit in the window sill
  - This could also be why Eutychus became very sleepy
  - The name Eutychus means “lucky one”
  - Being the first day of the week, he had probably worked all that day

#### b. Eutychus is Overcome by Sleep and Falls Three Stories (9b)

- i. Eutychus cannot fight sleep any longer and falls backward out the third story window
- ii. By saying he was “overcome” with sleep shows that Eutychus wasn’t being disrespectful but was fighting to stay awake

#### c. Eutychus Dies From the Fall

- i. Eutychus is killed by the three story fall
- ii. Luke says that he was picked up dead
- iii. Luke was a physician by trade so he understands when a person is dead or just unconscious

#### d. Can you imagine what a distraction this was for Paul’s preaching

- i. Why do bad things keep happening when Paul is doing the best he can for the Lord?
- ii. Why would God allow this young man to die when he was doing all he could to be obedient to the preaching of the word?

### 2. God Raises Eutychus From the Dead (10)

#### a. Paul Lays Himself Upon Eutychus

- i. This is the only recorded instance of Paul raising someone from the dead
- ii. Paul lays upon the young man just like Elijah and Elisha did when they raised the dead in the Old Testament

- iii. The Text says that Paul fell upon him and embraced him
      - Did Paul know that God would raise him from the dead or was he just sorrowful that the event happened?
    - b. Eutychus is Raised From the Dead
      - i. Paul tells the crowd not to be troubled
      - ii. Eutychus' life is in him
        - This doesn't mean that he didn't die
        - It meant that he had been given his life back
      - iii. Eutychus was resuscitated (He was brought back to life but would die again later in life)
        - Only Jesus has been truly resurrected never to die again
- C. Paul Resumes His Sermon To the Church (11)
  - 1. The Church Returns To the Worship Service
    - a. Paul is not sorry for preaching so long
    - b. They all return to the same room and Paul continues teaching them until Dawn
    - c. The church also receives the Lord's supper
    - d. They Church and Paul persevere through the circumstances – they were probably more energized now that God had done a miracle in their midst
    - e. Paul has been established as an Apostle and Prophet of God in the same line as those from the Old Testament
  - 2. Paul Preaches Until Dawn and Leaves
    - a. Paul leaves at dawn
    - b. Paul is continuing to go to Jerusalem and continues to encourage the churches as he goes
- IV. The Church is Comforted Through The Events with Eutychus (12)
  - A. Here the church is once again comforted (encouraged – parakaleo)
  - B. Paul have encouraged them in his preaching
  - C. God's work in Eutychus Parakaleo's the church
  - D. God is working in and through Paul to bring the ministry of discipleship and encouragement to the churches