

Acts 20 – Paul meets the Ephesian elders @ Miletus

I. Ephesus to Troas, by way of Philippi, v.1-12

- A. Paul preached to the saints at Troas, v.7
 - 1. Applications
 - a) The saints **routinely gathered together** on the **first day of the week** to **break bread** (Acts 2:42)
 - b) Paul **preached a sermon** of the first day of the week
 - 2. Eutychus falls out of a third story window
 - a) Miraculous? Doesn't matter, but not beyond God's power

II. Troas to Miletus, by way of Assos, Mitylene, Chios, Samos, Trogyllium, v.13-38

- A. Paul sends for the Ephesian elders, v.17
- B. Paul's words to the elders:
 - 1. You know my example, acceptance of what awaits in Jerusalem, v.18-25
 - 2. You must guard the saints and keep them safe, v.26-31
 - a) From without and within
 - 3. You must uplift the saints and see to their needs, v.32-35
- C. An emotional farewell, v.36-38

Acts 21 – Paul returns to Jerusalem

I. Miletus to Jerusalem, by way of Cos, Rhodes, Patara, Cyprus, Tyre, Ptolemais, Caesarea, v.1-16

- A. Philipp had four virgin daughters with spiritual gifts, v.8-9
- B. Agabus prophesies of Paul's imprisonment at Jerusalem, v.10-11
 - 1. Paul would not be persuaded to change his course

II. Paul and co. @ Jerusalem, v.17-40

- A. Paul humbles himself on behalf of believing Jews, v.17-26
 - 1. Some Jewish Christians could stumble because of Paul based on misperceptions of his teaching; therefore, the elders tell Paul to perform a vow of purification to show his respect for Jewish tradition and support for the social binding of the Law of Moses
- B. Paul is seized by an angry Jewish mob at the temple, v.27-36
 - 1. The Jews recognize Paul and falsely accuse him of defiling the temple by bringing a Gentile into it
 - 2. They seized him, beat him and tried to figure out how to kill him
 - 3. Rome shows up and rescues Paul, v.31-36
- C. Paul requests permission to speak to the mob on the steps of Antonia, v.37-40

Questions for Acts 20:

1. In what ways can we apply verse 7? Why is it reasonable to infer that the saints had a practice of meeting on the first day of the week? Is “breaking bread” sharing a meal, or something else? Provide Scripture for your answer.
2. Why do you suppose Paul wanted to be back to Jerusalem for the Day of Pentecost?
3. From what two places will threats arise against the faithful?
4. When did Jesus ever say “It is more blessed to give than to receive”? v.35
5. Consider the farewell to Paul. What important attribute(s) can be applied from this example to us today? V.36-38

Questions for Acts 21:

1. In what way did Paul’s companions “break” his heart? V.12-13. What can we learn from their response in v.14?
2. Why was Paul told to perform a vow of purification? Was it true that Paul was teaching Jews to forsake the Law? Was it wrong to follow the customs?
3. What did the Jews ASSUME that Paul had done? What important application can we make of this in our lives?