

blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders.²⁹ I know that false teachers, like vicious wolves, will come in among you after I leave, not sparing the flock.³⁰ Even some men from your own group will rise up and distort the truth in order to draw a following.³¹ Watch out! Remember the three years I was with you—my constant watch and care over you night and day, and my many tears for you.

³² “And now I entrust you to God and the message of his grace that is able to build you up and give you an inheritance with all those he has set apart for himself.

³³ “I have never coveted anyone’s silver or gold or fine clothes.³⁴ You know that these hands of mine have worked to supply my own needs and even the needs of those who were with me.³⁵ And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

³⁶ When he had finished speaking, he knelt and prayed with them.³⁷ They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye.³⁸ They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again. Then they escorted him down to the ship.

9. Discussion: (a) How do you think the Holy Spirit told Paul about what was awaiting him in the near future? (b) What were Paul’s life priorities? How would you describe your personal life priorities? (c) What was there about Paul’s faithfulness that gave him deep peace? (d) Which of Paul’s words to the Ephesian spiritual leaders are still very relevant to spiritual leaders today? Explain why. (e) What would you want to be sure to include if you knew it was the last time you would be able to speak to people you love?

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An Interactive Life Application Bible Study of the Acts of the Apostles for Small Groups

Key: *Blue* = New Testament *Red* = Words of Jesus

Green = Old Testament Quotes

Lesson 26

1. Background: Lesson 25 described the riot in Ephesus, that came about when craftsmen who made silver idols stirred up trouble. They feared Paul’s preaching caused many to stop buying and worshiping idols. In the end the mayor was able to settle the disturbance and bring peace.

2. Paul Goes to Macedonia and Greece

Acts 20:1-6

When the uproar was over, Paul sent for the believers and encouraged them. Then he said good-bye and left for Macedonia [north of Greece].² While there, he encouraged the believers in all the towns he passed through. Then he traveled down to Greece,³ where he stayed for three months. He was preparing to sail back to Syria when he discovered a plot by some Jews against his life, so he decided to return through Macedonia.

⁴ Several men were traveling with him. They were Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea [in Macedonia]; Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica [in Macedonia]; Gaius from Derbe [town in southeastern Greece]; Timothy; and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia [in Turkey].⁵ They went on ahead and waited for us at Troas [on the NW coast of Turkey].⁶ After the Passover¹ ended, we boarded a ship at Philippi [on the East coast] in Macedonia [north of Greece] and five days later joined them in Troas [a port on the NW coast of Turkey], where we stayed a week.

3. Discussion: (a) As Paul went back through areas where he and his team had previously preached, what type of ministry did he carry out? Why was this so important? (b) How did God use circumstances to guide Paul? (c) Why do

you think Paul chose men from so many different cities and areas to travel with him? (d) Who is the writer of the book of Acts who chose to use the word “we” in Acts 20:6?

4. Paul’s Final Visit to Troas

Acts 20:7-12 On the first day of the week, we gathered with the local believers to share in the Lord’s Supper. Paul was preaching to them, and since he was leaving the next day, he kept talking until midnight. ⁸ The upstairs room where we met was lighted with many flickering lamps. ⁹ As Paul spoke on and on, a young man named Eutychus, sitting on the windowsill, became very drowsy. Finally, he fell sound asleep and dropped three stories to his death below. ¹⁰ Paul went down, bent over him, and took him into his arms. “Don’t worry,” he said, “he’s alive!” ¹¹ Then they all went back upstairs, shared in the Lord’s Supper, and ate together. Paul continued talking to them until dawn, and then he left. ¹² Meanwhile, the young man was taken home unhurt, and everyone was greatly relieved.

5. Discussion: Why do you think God inspired Luke (the writer of Acts) to include this story? What can we learn from it about how the Holy Spirit sometimes works?

6. Paul Meets the Ephesian Elders

Acts 20:13-21 Paul went by land to Assos [a West coast city in what is present day Turkey], where he had arranged for us to join him, while we traveled by ship. ¹⁴ He joined us there, and we sailed together to Mitylene [South of Assos] ¹⁵ The next day we sailed past the island of Kios [South of Mytilene in the Aegean Sea]. The following day we crossed to the island of Samos [South of Kios], and a day later we arrived at Miletus [a southwestern Port town in what is present day Turkey].

¹⁶ Paul had decided to sail on past Ephesus, for he didn’t want to spend any more time in the province of Asia. He

was hurrying to get to Jerusalem, if possible, in time for the Festival of Pentecost. ¹⁷ But when we landed at Miletus, he sent a message to the elders of the church at Ephesus, asking them to come and meet him.

¹⁸ When they arrived he declared, “You know that from the day I set foot in the province of Asia until now ¹⁹ I have done the Lord’s work humbly and with many tears. I have endured the trials that came to me from the plots of the Jews. ²⁰ I never shrank back from telling you what you needed to hear, either publicly or in your homes. ²¹ I have had one message for Jews and Greeks alike—the necessity of repenting from sin and turning to God, and of having faith in our Lord Jesus.

7. Discussion: (a) Where did Paul’s team meet before sailing on together? (b) Why did Paul call the Ephesian elders to meet him at Port Miletus rather than traveling back north to Ephesus? (c) If you were to report your walk with the Lord, how would it compare with Paul’s report to the Ephesian elders?

8. Paul continues speaking to the Ephesian elders

Acts 20:22-38 “And now I am bound by the Spirit to go to Jerusalem. I don’t know what awaits me, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. ²⁴ But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.

²⁵ “And now I know that none of you to whom I have preached the Kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶ I declare today that I have been faithful. If anyone suffers eternal death, it’s not my fault, ²⁷ for I didn’t shrink from declaring all that God wants you to know.

²⁸ “So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock — his church, purchased with his own