

## Putting Feet to Your Faith

### Acts 20:1-15

- Paul is journeying to Jerusalem on his way to Rome on his third and final missionary journey, and we'll see this is a minister's farewell tour, as most of the people we read that Paul will see in the coming chapters will never see his face again. But like Jesus Paul is determined to finish his course no matter what the cost with joy. **Is 50:7** says the Messiah would "**set His face like flint to do the Father's will**" **Lk 9:51**- records that's exactly what Jesus did on His way to the cross. Paul in speaking with some Pastors from Ephesus will mimic the same attitude > **Acts 20:22-24**.

### V1-15

- **V1-3** after the riot Paul calls the believers together and tells them it's time for him to leave Ephesus and go to Macedonia, remember he's going there to not only encourage the saints but collect from the saints and offering to give the church at Jerusalem. This again shows how Paul always thought about the body above all things > **2 Cor 11:23-28**- "The care of all the churches" was his **greatest joy**, but also his **heaviest burden**, for he was a man with a concerned heart.
- **2 Cor 2:12-13** tell us that Paul was expecting to see Titus at Troas to give him a report on how the Corinthians received his first letter but he wasn't there and this gave Paul some concern about Titus welfare and it left him a bit uneasy. But it didn't stop him from doing the Lord's will, although he didn't find Titus what he did find was an open door to preach the gospel, and that's exactly what he did, and it was met with great success. **2 Cor 7:5-7** eventually Titus shows up with great news and he spends three months in Corinth writing the book of Romans.
- What started out with disappointment ends with joy, as things didn't work out how he envisioned but he remained flexible, and things worked out for God's glory. What happens when you have a concerned heart, and you're a bit uneasy, do you shut down, as your mind begins to play all sorts of unpleasant scenarios do you go numb, become paralyzed, or go into I have to fix it mode, or do you continue in doing only the things that you can control?
- **V4-5** because of the Jews plotting Paul has to change plans again and reroute through Macedonia toward Philippi, it's here were introduced to some of his traveling companions. **1. Sopater** of Berea mentioned in **Rom 16:21**, **2. Aristarchus** of Thessalonica who nearly lost his life in the riot at Ephesus **Acts 19:29**, later he's a prisoner with Paul in Rome **Col 4:10**, **3. Secundus** was once a slave who accompanied Paul through Asia and Troas, **4. Gaius of Derbe** not the same as mentioned in chapter 19, not a lot known of him, **5. Timothy** his protégé, **6. Tychicus** a beloved brother and faithful minister **Eph 6:21**, **7. Trophimus** became ill at Miletus **2Tim 4:20**.

- All seven of Paul's traveling companions had been won to the faith by Paul and became stewards of the gospel, men who could be trusted with the things of God and the souls of the people, to carry on the work long after Paul was gone. This should be the legacy we want to leave behind, people who we've helped raise up, to carry on what God has graciously allowed us to be a part of, making sure that it doesn't die out as soon as we go on in eternity.
- **V6-7** we have reentered showing the Luke has now joined the team again having been left in Philippi **Acts 16**, now back in Troas they have a church service that will not be forgotten anytime soon. This is proof that the early church did meet on Sundays, and they kept the Lord's supper which is communion, and this shows that neither the Jews or the gentiles were required to keep the Sabbath. Paul knowing he was leaving the next day had a lot to talk about but little time so he speaks all the way until midnight about **6 hrs**, and you complain about my sermons ha ha.
- **V8-12** a certain young man not wanting to miss anything sits in the window trying to catch a breeze, hoping the night air will help him stay up, remember there's no air conditioning so it's a hot night and people are sleepy. Sadly it doesn't and he falls out the window and dies to the horror of the crowd, and what started out as a blessing seemingly is going to end up in tragedy. But not so fast, while everyone else is in shock, distraught, disbelief, Paul is amazingly calm, and he goes down there hugs him and tells everyone don't be alarmed and raises him to life.
- Then he comes back up and grabs a bite to eat and starts up a conversation like nothing miraculously has happened, this is what the gift of faith looks like. **V12** says everyone else is beside themselves, "they were not a little comforted" means they couldn't believe their eyes, here is a man that was dead in their midst, remember none of these people were around Jesus when He raised Lazarus from the dead, now they have one of their own who once was dead is now alive. But People we should be like this when someone is spiritually brought to life.
- **Eutychus**- means "fortunate" he was fortunate that it was Paul preaching that night and not someone else, but he is also fortunate to be used by God in such a way. This man is living proof like all of us that there is nothing too big that God cannot conquer, even death, so our situation or circumstance that has us thinking we'll never escape or overcome is nothing to the Lord. In this section we see > **1<sup>st</sup>** the Lord's people gathering together, **2<sup>nd</sup>** the Lord's supper (communion) being celebrated, **3<sup>rd</sup>** the Lord's message going out into the ears and hearts of the people, **4<sup>th</sup>** the Lord's Power being displayed for all to see that we may have hope that He is real.