

Series: The Acts of the Apostles: The End VII

Text: Acts 20:1-16

HI: An empty tomb fuels a growing Church.

Title: *Eutychus Lives*

Hook: Paul the spiritual father

Date: 6.16.24

Purpose: To encourage God's people with the news death is swallowed up in victory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

FCF: Like Theophilus, modern believers wonder how the church will flourish in a world filled with opposition. God's grace assures us that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is building his church.

COR: Like those who witnessed Eutychus fall, we know like in this world is marked by tragedy. The gospel reveals that death does not have the last word for those who trust in Christ.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: Eutychus lives because of the Word Paul that night proclaimed—that Jesus Christ put death to death. This miracle authenticated the Word: Romans 8:11

Apologetic: It's all academic until someone gets raised from the dead. This is the claim with which every single person who hears the gospel must wrestle. God—who raises the dead—sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to put death to death. Jesus raised a widow's son, and his friend Lazarus. Those men would die again, just like Eutychus. But Jesus walked out of a tomb that is still empty. And this power—that raised Jesus from the dead—raises sinners to new life in Jesus every single day.

Text Tone: Encouragement

Preaching Voice: Sage

Form: Deductive

Call to Worship: Psalm 33:20-22

Benediction: 1 Corinthians 15:56-58

Outline:

I. Gospel encouragement marks the church. (1-6)

A. Paul is on a journey. (1-3)

B. Paul is not alone. (4-6)

II. Resurrection power fuels the mission. (7-12)

A. This was a normal church gathering. (7-8)

B. This was not a normal church gathering. (9-12)

III. Kingdom perspective guides the work. (13-16)

A. Paul's face is set. (13-16)

Main Idea:

Subject: What power animates the advancement of the church?

Complement: The resurrection power of Christ.

Exegetical Idea: The resurrection power of Christ animates the advancement of the church.

Theological Idea: God, who raises the dead, builds his church.

Homiletical Idea: An empty tomb fuels a growing Church.

Introduction:

I appeal to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I became in my imprisonment. Philemon 10

“For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.” 1 Corinthians 4:15

“To Timothy, my true child in the faith” 1 Timothy 1:2

“To Timothy, my beloved child” 2 Timothy 1:2

“But you know Timothy’s proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.” Philippians 2:22

READ Acts 20:1-16

20 After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. ² When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. ³ There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. ⁵ These went on ahead and were waiting for

us at Troas, ⁶ but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days. ⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. ⁹ And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." ¹¹ And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. ¹² And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted. ¹³ But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵ And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

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RE-READ Acts 20:1-3

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I. Gospel encouragement marks the church. (1-6)

"Encourage" – exhort, urge, call to action

1 Thessalonians 2:11-12: For you know how, like a father with his children, ¹² we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.

RE-READ Acts 20:7-12

⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. ⁹ And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." ¹¹ And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. ¹² And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction... Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, 9-10

Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

II. Resurrection power fuels the mission. (7-12)

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(The story continues...) RE-READ Acts 20:13-16

¹³ But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵ And sailing from there

we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

III. Kingdom perspective guides the work. (13-16)

²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. Romans 15:25-29

that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11

(sound affects) Jaws music vs. Hallelujah chorus

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. (Luke 9:51)

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