



S E R M O N G U I D E

When The Church Shows Up

Acts 14:19-20

INTRODUCTION

NOTES

The 14th chapter of the book of Acts gives us a picture of what is perhaps the greatest role the church can play in people’s lives. And that is the ministry of PRESENCE. This chapter reveals a perfect picture and ideal image of the role of the church in the lives of people who have been beaten, battered, and bruised by a cold and callous world. The response of the disciples during the time of Paul’s greatest need suggests that the ministry of presence is perhaps the greatest role that the church can play in people’s lives. In this message, we are going to look at three things that happen when the church shows up. So let’s dive in.

KEY POINTS

1. God’s People Are Present

When we need God, He shows up. He will provide for all of our needs because that is who He is and what He does. And though we are not God, we are called to be like Jesus. And because of that, we too can show up for others. How do we “show up” for people? We do it by being PRESENT, by giving them our presence.

Sometimes, people don’t need an expert or a motivational speaker...they just need someone to be there. They need presence. So, what is presence? Presence is when you are there with someone. Not just by your body being there, in fact, you can have a presence through a phone call, zoom call, or FaceTime call.

Presence is about mentally being there and engaged in what the other person is saying and feeling. Sometimes, people just need to be heard. They need to be felt. And that is what we can do as believers. We are called to be “the hands and feet” of Jesus. And that means being present when others need us.

2. Miracles Happen

Because the church showed up, the text says, Paul got up. After being carted off to the outskirts of the city like a heap of trash and left on the side of the road for dead, their gesture of love, and hope, enabled Paul to stand up.

No Limits with Pastor Delman

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Verse 20 opens up with the contrasting conjunction “but.” “But” suggests a radical reorientation of everything that happened before. It signals that things are about to shift. Before, things looked dim and dark, but now it seems like things are about to turn around. Before, hope seems to be gone, but now there is light seen at the end of the tunnel.

It’s what God does. God shifts things. God turns things around. He will dramatically change the narrative of your story so that the outcome turns out for your good. He works miracles when the church shows up.

3. We Can Move On

After he got up, the text says Paul was then able to go into the city, and the next day he “went on” with Barnabas to Derbe. One commentator said, he “moved on” with Barnabas to Derbe. What a wonderful image of what happens after the church shows up.

Paul is now able to get his life back on track and keep pursuing his purpose. Paul was stoned, but it doesn’t stop him. He got up, first for himself, but also because he realizes he has a promise over his life. Someone once said, “The man who moves a mountain begins by carrying away small stones... It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.” And the same is true for you. Regardless of what has happened to you, you too can do the same thing. You can move on from your pain and pursue the purpose God has for your life. And this is often made possible when the church shows up to help you and walk alongside you.

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. How has the church shown up in your life?
2. When was a time you witnessed God work a miracle when His people showed up and exercised the ministry of presence?
3. Is there something you need to move on from so you can pursue God's purpose for your life? If so, what is it?
