

Living Example Acts 20:13-38

vs. 13-16, Paul was behind his original desired schedule
His next goal was to arrive before Pentecost (50 days after Passover).

vs. 17, Paul sends for the Elders in Ephesus to meet him at the dock in Miletus (30 miles).

Question: How is Paul processing life? How would you describe his thoughts and emotions?

Paul is not a charge the hill and give no regard to who is with him kind of leader.

- Paul allows people to see his care, vulnerability and reflective temperament.
- He is quiet, not combative.
- He is reflective, not argumentative.
- He is certainly not waving a banner for his own glory.

Question: How would you describe your approach to others? What would others say? Are you appropriately vulnerable? Do you take time to reflect each day? Are you quick to listen? Are you quick to suck the air out of a room?

In this section we see and hear the heart and voice of Paul.

1. Paul's history in Ephesus (vs. 18-21).
2. Paul shares his focus to arrive in Jerusalem (vs. 22-24).
3. Paul's understanding and warning of what is to come (vs. 25-31).

Paul concludes with a blessing (vs. 32).

Don't disregard the examples that have been set before you (vs. 33-35). Paul and Jesus

You know (vs. 18)

And now behold (vs. 22)

And now, behold, I know (vs. 25)

And now (vs. 32)

vs. 21, I testify to you about metanoia (repentance).

Turning to God by faith in Jesus.

Romans 10:9-10 If you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:20-21 Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God." **21** He made the one who did not know sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

vs. 22-24, On my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit.

My purpose is to testify to the gospel of God's grace. The difficulty before me is certain and not the point. The call of Jesus in my life is the point.

Question: When thinking about your life, what is the point? How are you actively testifying to the gospel of God's grace?

vs. 25, Consistently longing

Romans 15:28, 31-32 So when I have finished this and safely delivered the funds to them, I will visit you on the way to Spain. **29** I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. **31** Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, **32** and that, by God's will, I may come to you with joy and be refreshed together with you.

vs. 28-31,

This is what is coming.

There will be outside persecution.

There will be dangerously wrong teaching from within (1 Timothy 1:19-20, 4:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:15, 2:17-18, 3:1-9).

Revelation 2:1-7 The Ephesian church has abandoned its first love.

Humans are humans

Those entrusted to shepherd must

- Keep watch over themselves.
- Keep watch over the flock.
- The Holy Spirit has called and equip you to lead.
- Be shepherds (stewards / gentle and compassionate leaders) -> the church is God's which has been purchased with his own blood (infinite value - God's church is of priceless value to him). **Romans 9:5** Christ, who is God over all, praised forever. Amen.

vs. 32, God's presence and his word.

Grace / Built up / Inheritance / Sanctified

Question: How are each of these present in your everyday life? Who are those helping you along the way? How do you encourage one another on the narrow path of kingdom living?

vs. 33-35,

Do not be shepherds who are enticed by greed.

Follow my example.

Follow the example and words of Jesus.

vs. 36, Paul prayed for them.

What would Paul pray?

Ephesians 1:17-19 I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, would give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. **18** I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened so that you may know what is the hope of his calling, what is the wealth of his glorious inheritance in the saints, **19** and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of his strength.

Philippians 1:9-11 And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, **10** so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Colossians 1:9-12 We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding, **10** so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God, **11** being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have great endurance and patience, joyfully **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

vs. 37-38, Family saying their goodbyes.

Pray! Pray! Pray!

Question: Are you leaning into the necessity of prayer? How are you growing in your dependence on prayer?