

Journey and Reflection

Acts 20:1-13

We love to engage with the intrigue of a good epic journey (Lord of the Rings).

2 great epics of the ancient world

1. Odyssey written -> Homer 8th or 7th century BC.
2. Pentateuch written -> between the time of the Exodus and the death of Moses, namely, between 1446 and 1406 B.C. The children of Israel, out of Egypt and headed home to the promised land.

If all we had was the Pentateuch, it ends just before we want it to.
What happened? Did they make it?

The same is true with Acts.

What happens at the final trial? What did Paul say to Nero? What did Nero say to Paul?

God is guiding his people to their final destination.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Did it happen?

Question: What is yours? Are you involved in the proclamation of Jesus?

All of us have experiences that shape us. Joys, sorrows, pain, death, freedom, slavery, etc...

vs. 3, Paul was overflowing with the announcement and explanation of how the gospel of Jesus was supporting and informing all of his plans. Everything about Paul, all of his work, was for the mission and unity of the church.

- Discovered a plot by the Jews to kill him at sea.
- Decided to make his way back by land through Macedonia.
- Traveling wasn't always a safe endeavor. Robbers were the norm on ancient roads, and inns weren't always safe.
- Paul had collected a good deal of money from the Gentile churches and wanted to make sure it got to its destination.
- Weighing the options he takes the longer route choosing the unknown for what had been planned against him at sea. He uses it as an opportunity to once again encourage the churches (retrace his steps.)

vs. 4, Safety and Accountability

Representatives from his Gentile churches:

- Sopater of Berea
- Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica
- Gaius of Derbe
- Timothy of Lystra, and Tychicus
- Trophimus from Asia

vs. 5, The details of a travel log recorded by someone (Luke) who enjoys the details. From 20:5-28:31 there is a great amount of detail concerning ports of call, stopovers, and Paul's travel itinerary.

vs. 7-12, Notice the setting. Upper room filled with Jesus followers who have assembled to break bread (communion).

Eutychus - a young man

His name means lucky it was also a very common name for a slave.

Interested - desired to be there - tired from a long day

He falls - tragic accident - Paul responds

1 Kings 17:17-24 After this, the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. His illness got worse until he stopped breathing. **18** She said to Elijah, "Man of God, what do you have against me? Have you come to call attention to my iniquity so that my son is put to death?" **19** But Elijah said to her, "Give me your son." So he took him from her arms, brought him up to the upstairs room where he was staying, and laid him on his own bed. **20** Then he cried out to the Lord and said, "Lord my God, have you also brought tragedy on the widow I am staying with by killing her son?" **21** Then he stretched himself out over the boy three times. He cried out to the Lord and said, "Lord my God, please let this boy's life come into him again!" **22** So the Lord listened to Elijah, and the boy's life came into him again, and he lived. **23** Then Elijah took the boy, brought him down from the upstairs room into the house, and gave him to his mother. Elijah said, "Look, your son is alive." **24** Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know you are a man of God and the Lord's word from your mouth is true."

2 Kings 4:33-36 So he went in, closed the door behind the two of them, and prayed to the Lord. **34** Then he went up and lay on the boy: he put mouth to mouth, eye to eye, hand to hand. While he bent down over him, the boy's flesh became warm. **35** Elisha got up, went into the house, and paced back and forth. Then he went up and bent down over him again. The boy sneezed seven times and opened his eyes. **36** Elisha called Gehazi and said, "Call the Shunammite woman." He called her and she came. Then Elisha said, "Pick up your son."

He is great like the OT prophets Elijah and Elisha.

Not just the OT prophets, but a peer and fellow apostle like Peter.

Acts 9:36-43 Peter sent them all out of the room. He knelt down, prayed, and turning toward the body said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, saw Peter, and sat up. **41** He gave her his hand and helped her stand up. He called the saints and widows and presented her alive. **42** This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

vs. 12, They were greatly comforted.

"It was an evening of great significance for the church at Troas! For Paul had taught them, they had fellowship in the Lord's Supper, and they had witnessed a dramatic sign of God's presence and power." ~ Richard N. Longenecker,

It isn't that difficult to imagine a group of Jesus followers needing encouragement. We are given a small glimpse of the journeys of early Jesus followers.

Fellowship - Worship - Death - Life - Celebration

Big Picture -> heads up

Trenches -> heads down

Both have great value. Both need time, attention, and prayer!

Question: How do you need encouragement? How can you be an encouragement to others? Do you have people with whom you can break bread with? Those you can celebrate and lament the big picture as well as the trenches with?