

## **Live Well So You Can Leave Well**

Acts 20:36–38

### **Context**

Acts 20 records Paul's emotional farewell to the elders of Ephesus.

He meets them in Miletus before traveling to Jerusalem, where he knows suffering awaits.

Acts 20:36–38 describes a deeply human moment:

- Paul kneels and prays with them
- They weep together
- They embrace him
- They walk him to the ship

Their grief reveals the depth of their relationship.

### **Big Idea**

How you live today determines how you leave tomorrow.

Live well so you can leave well.

### **1. The Church Is a Family, Not a Fan Club**

The church is not a place we go — it is a people we belong to.

Biblically, the church is the community of believers united to Christ, filled with the Spirit, and sent to represent His kingdom.

The church is not:

- A building
- A service time
- A brand
- A nonprofit organization

It is a spiritual family.

In Acts 20 the elders:

- Weep with Paul
- Embrace him
- Escort him to the ship

In the ancient world, escorting someone to their ship was a sign of honor and deep relationship.

Consumer Christianity treats church like a product to evaluate.

Biblical Christianity treats church like a family to belong to.

Question:

Are you here as a consumer or as a family member?

## **2. Mission Over Comfort**

Paul loved these people deeply, but he still left.

Acts 20:24

“I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race.”

Paul organized his life around calling, not comfort.

Our culture tells us to pursue comfort.  
Scripture calls us to pursue obedience.

Sometimes obedience means leaving.  
Sometimes obedience means staying.

The goal is not comfort — it is faithfulness to God’s mission.

When your life belongs to Jesus, mission matters more than comfort.

## **3. Live Well So You Can Leave Without Regret**

Acts 20:18

“You know how I lived among you the whole time.”

Paul lived with integrity among them.  
Because of that, his departure was marked by love instead of conflict.

What we don’t see in this moment:

- No scandal
- No unresolved tension
- No broken relationships

Just grief and gratitude.

Integrity accumulates over time.  
Regret accumulates too.

The best way to leave well later is to live well now.

## **Practical Ways to Live Well Now**

Don’t just attend — belong.  
Build real relationships and be known in the church community.

Serve alongside the mission.  
Every believer has a role in the body of Christ.

Live with open hands.

Acts 20:35 — “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Practice generosity with your time, resources, and life.

### **The Ultimate Departure**

One day every person will face a final departure.

Either Jesus will return, or our life on earth will end.

The question in that moment will not be:

“How comfortable was my life?”

The question will be:

“Was I faithful?”

2 Timothy 4:7

“I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.”

That is the goal — not a perfect life, but a faithful life.

### **The Gospel**

Jesus lived the life we could not live, died the death we deserved, and rose again.

Through Him we are forgiven and adopted into God’s family.

### **Final Challenge**

One day we will all leave something behind.

So live in such a way that you can say:

“I fought the good fight. I finished the race. I kept the faith.”

Live well today so you can leave well tomorrow.