

Acts 20 “Ministry and Mission”
8/10/25 Calvary Chapel Titusville
Pastor Paul Andris

After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to [himself], embraced [them], and departed to go to Macedonia. (Acts 20:1 NKJV)

The gospel isn't just content, it's community.

Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece (Acts 20:2 NKJV)

Encouragement. That's our calling!

and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. (Acts 20:3 NKJV)

Faith doesn't mean foolishness. It means confidence with discernment.

And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia--also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. (Acts 20:4-6 NKJV)

You're seeing church leadership as gospel partnership. No heroes, just servants.

Now on the first [day] of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. (Acts 20:7 NKJV)

They were hungry, and Paul was pouring out everything he had.

There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. (Acts 20:8-9 NKJV)

The poor guy just falls asleep and falls out the window!

But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing [him] said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted. (Acts 20:10-12 NKJV)

***When ministry becomes more about the crowds than the individuals,
we've lost track of what kingdom ministry is.***

Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos, there intending to take Paul on board; for so he had given orders, intending himself to go on foot. And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. We sailed from there, and the next [day] came opposite Chios. The following [day] we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next [day] we came to Miletus. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 20:13-16 NKJV)

Paul was always thinking kingdom impact.

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, (Acts 20:17-18 NKJV)

This is spiritual leadership, it's life on life.

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"serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; "how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, "testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts 20:19-21 NKJV)

Ministry is not glamour. It's grit and grace.

"And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, "except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me."But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. (Acts 20:22-24 NKJV)

Paul wasn't focused on how he began his walk with Christ. He was focused on how he would finish.

"And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. "Therefore I testify to you this day that I [am] innocent of the blood of all [men]. "For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. (Acts 20:25-27 NKJV)

This is what it looks like to pour your life out.

"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (Acts 20:28 NKJV)

You can't pour out what's not within.

But I discipline my body and bring [it] into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified. (1 Corinthians 9:27 NKJV)

Paul says look after yourselves, because sin begins silently.

"For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. "Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. (Acts 20:29-30 NKJV)

Paul here gives the hard truth: enemies will come from outside and inside.

False teaching doesn't just distract — it infects.

"Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. (Acts 20:31 NKJV)

Truth without tears becomes triumphalism.

Tears without truth becomes sentimentality.

But truth with tears — that's Gospel shepherding.

"So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. (Acts 20:32 NKJV)

He placed his hope in the word of His grace because grace teaches, transforms, and sustains.

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (Titus 2:11-12 NKJV)

Paul knew that his absence didn't remove God's presence.

"I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. "Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. (Acts 20:33-34 NKJV)

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Gospel ministry is about giving, not gaining. It's not our kingdom — it's Jesus'.

"I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "
(Acts 20:35 NKJV)

True blessing isn't in accumulation but in generosity.

And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship. (Acts 20:36-38 NKJV)

Gospel ministry creates gospel friendships

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; "and you have persevered and have patience, and have labored for My name's sake and have not become weary. "Nevertheless I have [this] against you, that you have left your first love.

"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place--unless you repent. (Revelation 2:2-5 NKJV)

When truth and love walk hand in hand — Christ is glorified.