

ACTS 20 PART I

Redeeming the Details

*33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.
Luke 20:33*

Digging Deeper

We serve a powerful God of immaculate detail. At first glance, it may be hard to see what the Lord is showing us through the written Word, but EVERY word has a purpose. As Jesus reminds us in Luke 21:33, His word is eternal! So that begs the question: if His word is eternal, why are some of these obscure narratives recorded for us eternally? As we peel back the layers we see that the narrative found in Acts 20 has much to offer!

As we are following Paul in the final stages of his third missionary journey he is feeling the finality of his time with the church in Asia Minor. He knows his time with them is short and is working hard to show us the example of discipleship, investing everything he has in these communities before his time is up. His love for the church is astounding. Embracing and encouraging each of them along the way and preaching all the way up until the moment he must depart. Paul knew his time was short, that his life had been pre-measured, and as such he worked diligently to accomplish the work that God had called him to in unifying master and slave, Jew and Gentile, and people of all backgrounds of Life under the name of Christ!

It's in the details of this opening narrative that show us the nature of our eternal God is much bigger than our finite human minds. His details are far more magnificent for us to truly take in. It is easy to overlook the details and just grab at the low-hanging fruit of the text. But as scripture shows us, we should be able to feed ourselves, further, we are to "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15)

How does studying the details help us understand the Nature of God?

Read Exodus 26. Discuss the details of the tabernacle and what the communicates about our God.

Discussion Questions

1. We serve a highly detailed God. What comes to mind when you think of the details in which He created the world and His ordinances for worship in the Tabernacle? What does it say about His Authority?
2. Every word written in the Bible has a purpose for your life. How can a statement like this change the way you study His word?
3. In light of his past efforts of hating the church, Paul's love for the church is on full display through Acts 20. Why is this so important to see? How do you display God's love to His people?
4. As the Mosaic law was fulfilled in its entirety through Christ, our typical day of worship and sabbath have become two very different things. What is the deeper meaning of resurrection Sunday vs. the sabbath? Why is rest important even if it is not a command?
5. God has a pre-measured life span for you. Eutychus fell to his death and was resurrected as it was not yet his time. Why was this important for the Gentile church to see? How does this concept help us live without fear, on mission for Christ?