

September 1, 2024

Lead Pastors

Unstoppable Kingdom
Globally: People and Places
Acts 20:1-16

“Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Genesis 12:1-3

Main Idea: The Unstoppable Kingdom is made up of people on the move together with God!

*After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days. On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.” And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted. But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. **Acts 20:1-16***

2 things we see God specifically emphasize in Acts 20:1-16, as He builds His unstoppable Kingdom:

I. People are essential to the Kingdom (1-12)

Reminder: The Kingdom of God is...

*“God’s active and sovereign reign throughout history bringing about His purposes in the world through Christ Jesus. In the simplest of terms, the Kingdom of God is what the world looks like when King Jesus gets His way.” **Jeff Christopherson***

People are essential...

a) For Discipleship (1-6)

It’s Strategic → It was the strategy given to us by Jesus.

*“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” **Matthew 28:18-20***

It’s Practical → For help and partnership and multiplication.

*“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.” **Philippians 1:3-5***

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with someone!”

- African Proverb

It’s Training → Equipping others for ministry

*“Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” **1 Corinthians 11:1***

b) For Community (7-8)

“On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered.”

Acts 20:7-8

Community is vital! We were never meant to do life alone.

*“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” **Hebrews 10:24-25***

One reason we serve together on teams here at Salem is to...

“Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

Romans 12:10

*“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace...” **1 Peter 4:10***

So what does being in community with other believers provide?

- Teaching, accountability, and encouragement for one another.

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.” **Hebrews 3:13***

- Taking care of each other.

“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2

- Serving each other.

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Galatians 5:13

- Standing out to the world by our genuine love for one another.

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:34-35

We're made for community. We are a gift from God to each other and to the world around us. Are you involved in that community?

c) For Faith-Building (9-10, 12)

“And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, ‘Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.’...And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.” Acts 20:9-10, 12

d) For the Mission (11)

“And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.” Acts 20:11

Main Idea: The Unstoppable Kingdom is made up of people on the move together with God!

II. Places are important in the Kingdom (13-16)

But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. Acts 20:1-16

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

We are a church family that knows that...

Main Idea: The Unstoppable Kingdom is made up of people on the move together with God!

Invitation for you:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities

- *Sources and Further Reading Opportunities*
- *The Bible Exposition Commentary – Warren Wiersbe (1996)*
- *ESV Study Bible – Crossway (2008)*
- *New American Commentary - Acts – John Polhill (1992)*
- *Acts: The Church Afire - R.K. Hughes (1996)*
- *The Message of Acts: The Spirit, the Church, & the World - John Stott (1994)*
- *Acts - K.O. Gangel (1998)*
- *The Acts of the Apostles - William Barclay (1976)*
- *Acts: Bible Study Commentary - F.F. Bruce (2017)*
- *Acts for Everyone Pt 2 - Chapters 13-28 - N.T. Wright (2008)*