

Acts 20:1-16 “A Plan to Live on Mission” Vision Sunday 1.6.15

Intro. You will be most satisfied and God will be most glorified as you grow as a disciple of Christ. Furthermore those you influence will be blessed. But, without *planning to grow* and live on mission you are unlikely to, and will likely drift from Christ, suffer, and hurt others too. At Calvary Nexus we want you to *plan to grow this year* and live on mission as part of our community. We want to help you do that, & share that vision today [refer to 2015 vision flyer handout or on app.].

Subject: Paul’s plan to live on mission

Object: Develop community with Christ and others

Context: Paul planned to go from Ephesus (Turkey) to Greece then to Jerusalem (to provide financial relief) then to Rome [**Ac.19:21**].

1. Serve a community [1-5]

1After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to *himself*, embraced *them*, and departed to go to Macedonia. **2**Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece **3** and stayed **three months**: after the uproar at Ephesus, Paul gathered the disciples to say farewell & went to Macedonia [northern Greece: Philippi, Berea, Thessalonica] & then south to Roman province of Greece [aka Achaia: Athens, Corinth]

a. Use your gifts to strengthen the local church [1-3] Paul encouraged and strengthened the churches est. on 2nd mission trip [Ac.16-17] by teaching during his time there (three months [2]) to make disciples and develop leaders

** Average of one-hour a week as a guideline for service at our local church

** ministry opportunities listed on connect card & connect tab on app

?What is your plan to serve the Lord in the local church in the coming year?

b. Develop relationships as you serve with others [3-6] And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. **4**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. **5**These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas.

I. Be able to identify seven friends in your church community [3-5]

Paul planned to sail to Syria (home church at Antioch) [3], but a death plot caused him to return by land through Macedonia. Paul was accompanied by seven men [4] likely representatives from churches sending money with Paul [2Cor.8:18-24]. Aristarchus nearly lost his life in riot @Ephesus [19:29], and later was in prison with Paul at Rome [Col.4:10]; Timothy was a spiritual son who later pastored the church at Ephesus; Tychicus served with Paul at Miletus and later at Rome.

? What is your plan to develop friendships in the church in the coming year?

2. Grow in community [6-12]

6But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. 7Now 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. 8There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. 9And 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. 10But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." 11Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. 12And they brought the young man in alive, and they were not a little comforted.

a. Attend weekend gatherings and mid-week community [7-12]

Left Philippi after the days of **Unleavened Bread** [6]: 7 days following the Passover remember the Exodus and God delivering the Jews from bondage in Egypt to be free to worship God. Came to Troas where they would remain for a week [6] **First day of the week** [7]: Sunday commemorate Resurrection [1Cor.16:1-2, Rev.1:10]

i. Regularly attend weekend gatherings: [edification and celebration] Paul gathers with the church. He starts to teach and keeps going till midnight [7]. People worked Sunday so church gathered at night. The church wanted to learn and Paul was eager to teach

iv. Many lamps, crowded & stuffy, Eutychus sinking into sleep as Paul kept teaching till midnight > fell out of 3rd story window > dead [8-9] Paul falls on him and life is miraculously restored [10]

ii. join a community group Paul returns to the Upper Room, broke bread and talked a long while [11], common meals, time to get to know one another, encourage and strengthen in the Word and the Lord [additional learning and community]

? What is your plan to attend weekend and mid-week community this year?

3. Share with a community [13-16] From Troas to Miletus

13Then 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. 14And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. 15We 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. 16For 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. Paul to meet Luke & 7 companions at Assos [13]. Paul walked @ 20 miles across the isthmus while the boat sailed around the Peninsula. Paul boards & they sail to Miletus @ 30 miles from Ephesus [14-15]. Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order to get to Jerusalem for Pentecost (one of three major feasts, 50 days after Passover, wheat harvest). Paul knew that if he went to Ephesus he would be there a while because of relationships

a. share resources to advance God's kingdom: Paul was delivering the offering from the Gentile churches to support the church at Jerusalem

i. commit financially to advancing God's kingdom

b. share the gospel to advance God's kingdom: Paul's plan was to go from Jerusalem to Rome [Ac.19:21]: strategic plan to reach the metropolitan hub of the empire and spread the gospel

i. invite unbelievers & unchurched people to become part of this community

? What is your plan to share your resources and your faith in the coming year?

Conclusion: Develop community with Christ and others at nexus! Review the 2015 vision and take the action steps to connect and grow and live on mission. You'll be satisfied and God will be glorified!

What motivates us to live on mission is what Christ has done for us

Communion: break bread [7]: Lord's Supper or Communion, remember Him [Lu. 22:19 – body broken & blood shed to redeem & deliver us from slavery to sin to be free to worship/serve God.

Discussion Qs

- 1. What is your plan to serve the Lord in the local church in the coming year?**
- 2. What is your plan to develop friendships in the local church in the coming year?**
- 3. What is your plan to attend weekend and mid-week community in the coming year?**
- 4. What is your plan to share your resources and your faith in the coming year?**

* demands for our time – busy lives. Greek “Kairos” opportunity cf. Chronos measured time. Kairos depicted as winged cherub with bald head except forelock, need to grab the forelock before it flies by and is gone [redeem the time Eph.5;16

explain why [ie. the benefits & reason] and how to