

A Pastor's Farewell
Full Send Message Series Week 19
Acts 20:17-38
Pastor Jeff Burkholder
February 25, 2024

A. Foundational Truth: All followers of Jesus are ministers.
(2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Acts 1:8)

B. How to be a faithful and effective minister:

1. Lead by example. (Acts 20:18-19; 1 Corinthians 11:1)

- Our actions will speak louder than our words.

2. Serve God, not people. (Acts 20:19-20; Galatians 1:10)

“Everyone serves something or someone, so who or what are we serving?”

Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Acts*,
B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2017, p. 314.

3. Teach God's Word, not your opinion. (Acts 20:20-21)

4. Boldly proclaim Jesus and the gospel. (Acts 20:21)

5. Be willing to sacrifice and suffer. (Acts 20:22-25)

“Paul knew that going to Jerusalem would involve suffering, but because he valued Jesus above comfort and even his own life, he was willing to go. His desire was to finish the ministry Jesus gave him. The goal of life is not to have a long life but a full life, one lived to the glory of Jesus Christ.”

Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition: Exalting Jesus in Acts*, B&H Publishing Group, Nashville, TN, 2017, p. 315.

6. Keep watch over yourself. (Acts 20:28)

“First, we must be on guard for perils within our own hearts ‘Pay careful attention to yourselves.’ In [C.S.] Lewis’s words, ‘The true Christian’s nostril is to be continually attentive to the inner cesspool.’ We must never suppose that we have risen above some particular sin or have attained immunity to various temptations but must always be on guard.”

R. Kent Hughes, *Acts*, Crossway, Wheaton, IL, 1996, p. 279.

7. Be on guard for “wolves.” (Acts 20:28-31)

8. Be a giver, not a taker. (Acts 20:35)

9. Serve with tenderness and courage. (Acts 20:31, 36-38)

- People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care.