



Lesson 34 – Paul’s Last Journey to Jerusalem

Based on Acts 20:4-38; 21:1-15

During his 3rd Missionary Journey, having completed his work at Corinth, he determined to sail directly for one of the ports on the coast of Palestine. All the arrangements had been made, and he was about to step on board the ship, when he was told of a plot laid by the Jews to take his life. In the past these opposers of the faith had been foiled in all their efforts to put an end to the apostle’s work.

1) How did Scripture state it?

Acts 20:3 And there abode three months. And when the Jews laid wait for him, as he was about to sail into Syria, he purposed to return through _____.

Paul greatly desired to reach Jerusalem before the Passover as he would thus have an opportunity to meet those who should come from all parts of the world to attend the feast. Upon receiving warning of the plot, Paul decided to go around by way of Macedonia. His plan to reach Jerusalem in time for the Passover services had to be given up, but he hoped to be there at Pentecost.

2) Who was with him?

Acts 20:4 And there accompanied him into Asia Sopater of _____; and of the _____, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timotheus; and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus.

Paul had with him a large sum of money from the Gentile churches, which he purposed to place in the hands of the brethren in charge of the work in Judea; and because of this he made arrangements for these representative brethren from various contributing churches, to accompany him to Jerusalem.

3) Where were they at the time of Passover that year?

Acts 20:5-6 These going before tarried for us at Troas. And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.

At Philippi Paul tarried to keep the Passover. Only Luke remained with him, the other members of the company passing on to Troas to await him there. The Philippians were the most loving and truehearted of the apostle’s converts, and during the eight days of the feast he enjoyed peaceful and happy communion with them. Then, sailing from Philippi, Paul and Luke reached their companions at Troas five days later, and remained for seven days with the believers in that place.

4) What happened in Troas?

Acts 20:7-8 And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to _____, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until _____. And there were many lights in the upper chamber, where they were gathered together.

The fact that their beloved teacher was about to depart had called together a larger company than usual. They assembled in an “**upper chamber**” on the third story. There, in the fervency of his love and solicitude for them, the apostle preached until midnight.

5) What happened that night?

Acts 20:9 And there sat in a window a certain young man named Eutychus, being fallen into a deep _____: and as Paul was long preaching, he sunk down with sleep, and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up _____.



In one of the open windows sat a youth named Eutychus. In this perilous position he went to sleep and fell to the court below. At once all was alarm and confusion. The youth was taken up dead, and many gathered about him with cries and mourning.

6) Did Paul panic?

Acts 20:10-11 And Paul went down, and fell on him, and embracing him said, Trouble not yourselves; for his _____ is in him. When he therefore was _____ again, and had broken bread, and eaten, and talked a long while, even till break of day, so he departed.

Paul, passing through the frightened company, embraced him and offered up an earnest prayer that God would restore the dead to life. His petition was granted.

With rejoicing the believers again assembled in the upper chamber. They partook of the Communion, and then Paul ***“talked a long while, even till break of day.”***

7) Paul had a change of plans, what were they?

Acts 20:13 And we went before to ship, and sailed unto Assos, there intending to take in Paul: for so had he appointed, minding himself to go _____.

This gave him a short season for meditation and prayer. The difficulties and dangers connected with his coming visit to Jerusalem, the attitude of the church there toward him and his work, as well as the condition of the churches and the interests of the gospel work in other fields, were subjects of earnest, anxious thought, and he took advantage of this special opportunity to seek God for strength and guidance.

8) Where did they go next?

Acts 20:14-15 And when he met with us at _____, we took him in, and came to Mitylene. And we sailed thence, and came the next day over against Chios; and the next day we arrived at Samos, and tarried at Trogyllium; and the next day we came to _____.

As the travelers sailed southward from Assos, they passed the city of Ephesus, so long the scene of the apostle's labors. Paul had greatly desired to visit the church there, for he had important instruction and counsel to give them. But upon consideration he determined to hasten on.

9) How does Scripture record it?

Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the _____ of the church.

Miletus, about thirty miles from Ephesus, he learned that it might be possible to communicate with the church before the ship should sail. He therefore immediately sent a message to the elders, urging them to hasten to Miletus, that he might see them before continuing his journey.

10) What did he have to tell them?

Acts 20:18-19 And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into _____, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the _____:

Acts 20:20-21 And how I kept back nothing that was _____ unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and _____ toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul had ever exalted the divine law. He had shown that in the law there is no power to save men from the penalty of disobedience. Wrongdoers must repent of their sins and humble themselves before God, whose just wrath they have incurred by breaking His law, and they must also exercise faith in the blood of Christ as their only means of pardon. The Son of God had died as their sacrifice and had ascended to heaven to stand before the Father as their advocate. By repentance and faith, they might be freed from



the condemnation of sin and through the grace of Christ be enabled henceforth to render obedience to the law of God.

11) What did he tell them was going to happen to him?

Acts 20:22-23 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall _____ me there: Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that _____ and _____ abide me.

12) Was he upset by the news?

20:24-25 But none of these things _____ me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face _____.

Paul had not designed to bear this testimony; but, while he was speaking, the Spirit of Inspiration came upon him, confirming his fears that this would be his last meeting with his Ephesian brethren.

13) Under the impression of the Spirit, what did he say?

Acts 20:26-27 Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the _____ of _____.

No fear of giving offense, no desire for friendship or applause, could lead Paul to withhold the words that God had given him for their instruction, warning, or correction. From His servants today God requires fearlessness in preaching the word and in carrying out its precepts. The minister of Christ is not to present to the people only those truths that are the most pleasing, while he withholds others that might cause them pain. He should watch with deep solicitude the development of character.

14) Knowing he wouldn't see them again, what did he warn them of?

Acts 20:28 Take _____ therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

If ministers of the gospel were to bear constantly in mind the fact that they are dealing with the purchase of the blood of Christ, they would have a deeper sense of the importance of their work. They are to take heed to themselves and to their flock. Their own example is to illustrate and enforce their instructions. As teachers of the way of life, they should give no occasion for the truth to be evil spoken of. As representatives of Christ, they are to maintain the honor of His name. By their devotion, their purity of life, their godly conversation, they are to prove themselves worthy of their high calling.

15) Who is roaming about?

Acts 20:29-30 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous _____ enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking _____ things, to draw away disciples after them.

Paul trembled for the church as, looking into the future, he saw the attacks which she must suffer from both external and internal foes. With solemn earnestness he bade his brethren guard vigilantly their sacred trusts.

16) What did he commend them to do?

Acts 20:32 And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the _____ of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to _____ the _____, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.



Amidst his arduous labors and extensive journeys for the cause of Christ, he was able, not only to supply his own wants, but to spare something for the support of his fellow laborers and the relief of the worthy poor. This he accomplished only by unremitting diligence and the closest economy.

17) How did their meeting end?

Acts 20:36-38 And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and _____ with them all. And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him, Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they _____ him unto the ship.

18) What happened next?

Acts 21:1-2 And it came to pass, that after we were gotten from them, and had launched, we came with a straight _____ unto Coos, and the day following unto Rhodes, and from thence unto Patara: And finding a ship sailing over unto _____, we went aboard, and set forth.

Acts 21:3-4 Now when we had discovered Cyprus, we left it on the left hand, and sailed into _____, and landed at Tyre: for there the ship was to unlade her burden. And finding _____, we tarried there seven days: who said to Paul through the Spirit, that he should not go up to Jerusalem.

Through the Holy Spirit these disciples were warned of the perils awaiting Paul at Jerusalem. But the apostle allowed not the fear of affliction and imprisonment to turn him from his purpose.

19) What followed?

Acts 21:5-6 And when we had accomplished those days, we _____ and went our way; and they all brought us on our way, with wives and children, till we were out of the city: and we kneeled down on the shore, and _____. And when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again.

Acts 21:7 And when we had finished our course from Tyre, we came to Ptolemais, and saluted the brethren, and abode with them one day.

At the close of the week spent in Tyre, all the brethren, with their wives and children, went with Paul to the ship, and before he stepped on board, they knelt upon the shore and prayed, he for them, and they for him.

20) Where did the ship journey finally end?

Acts 21:8 And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of _____ the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

21) What happened there?

Acts 21:10-11 And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named _____. And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and _____ his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

22) What was the general consensus among the believers?

Acts 21:12 And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, _____ him not to go up to Jerusalem.

23) How did Paul reply?

Acts 21:13-15 Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to _____ mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. And when he would not be _____, we ceased, saying, The will of the Lord be done. And after those days we took up our carriages, and went up to _____.



Never before had the apostle approached Jerusalem with so sad a heart. He knew that he would find few friends and many enemies. He was nearing the city which had rejected and slain the Son of God, and over which now hung the threatenings of divine wrath. Remembering how bitter his own prejudice against the followers of Christ had been, he felt the deepest pity for his deluded countrymen. And yet how little could he hope that he will be able to help them! The same blind wrath which had once burned in his own heart was now with untold power kindling the hearts of a whole nation against him.

Yet in the midst of discouragements the apostle was not in despair. He trusted that the Voice which had spoken to his own heart would yet speak to the hearts of his countrymen, and that the Master whom his fellow disciples loved and served would yet unite their hearts with his in the work of the gospel.

Can you see Paul would do anything for Jesus?

Would you like to have the courage that Paul had?

When is the time to do the right thing?

*I can do all things
through Christ
who strengthens me.*
Philippians 4:13