

Sermon Notes

"The Sermon that Lasted All Night Long"

Acts 20:1-12

April 14, 2019

6. There is a touch of humor in the telling of Eutychus' mishap. A boy (probably between the age of 8 and 14) whose name means "Lucky," falls into a deep sleep during Paul's teaching and suddenly falls out the window three floors to his death on the pavement below. Paul, in a miracle reminiscent of those performed by Elijah and Elisha (1 Kings 17:19-22; 2 Kings 4:34-35), resuscitates the deceased boy to everyone's relief. As Paul prepares to enter into his suffering in Jerusalem, consider how this miracle, together with the Holy Spirit's protective leading of Paul (20:3, 22-23), affirms that God's power is still active in Paul's life. When we see Paul suffer later, why is this fact important to keep in mind?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Howard and Marilyn Plucar, ReachGlobal Europe and Asia
Pray for deepening relationships; wisdom and sensitivity from the Holy Spirit in every conversation with missions staff, so as to be that encouraging "ministry of presence" to each person.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 04-14-19

Questions adapted from Phyllis J. Le Peau, Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action, A LifeGuide Bible Study, InterVarsity Press, Downers Grove, IL, 2002, pp. 61; James Galvin, ed., et al., New Testament Lesson Maker, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1992, pp. 213-214; Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 171-174.

Getting Started:

1. What was the longest talk you ever listened to?

Digging Deeper:

Read Acts 20:1-12.

"Even before the silversmiths' riot, Paul had planned to leave Ephesus and go to Jerusalem (19:21). Although Luke barely mentions the reason (24:17), we know that Paul's chief errand was to deliver money collected from his Gentile churches as a gift to the poor believers in Jerusalem (Romans 15:25-33, 1 Corinthians 16:1-4, 2 Corinthians 8:1 – 9:15). To gather this money, Paul intended to visit the churches in Macedonia and Achaia – in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Corinth." (Karen Lee-Thorp, ed., Acts: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 1987, pp. 171).

"In discussing the 'collection for the saints' in 1 Cor. 16:1–4, Paul noted that it would be accompanied by official representatives from the churches. Their presence would give safety from robbery and also would provide a public guarantee of Paul's integrity in handling the funds. The men listed here (Acts 20:4) as accompanying Paul represent all the areas of his missionary work." (ESV Study Bible, Crossway Bibles, Wheaton, IL, 2008, pp. 2128, n. 20:4).

2. Who were Paul's traveling companions on his journey (20:4-5)? What are the benefits of doing ministry as a

team? How can you be involved in ministry with other Christians?

3. Why was it important to collect money from the Gentile churches to help the church in Jerusalem (see Romans 15:25-27; 2 Cor. 9:6-15)? What are you presently doing (or could you begin doing) to systematically set aside an amount of money which you can give to help the poor, especially fellow followers of Christ (Gal 6:10)?
4. What day of the week and what time of the day (20:7-8) did the church meet? This is the first mention of such a gathering on Sunday. It is apparent from other NT texts that Sunday held an early importance among Christians (see 1 Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10). Why this switch from the traditional Jewish gathering on Saturday (consider Mark 16:2; Matt. 28:1)?
5. Why do you think Paul talked on and on to the Christians at Troas (consider the farewell nature of his speech in the next community, Acts 20:25, 36-38)? What attitudes toward Paul and his teaching did their continued presence through the night reveal?