

Acts 20...

Paul departs from Ephesus because of an uprising brought on by Demetrius and those of his craft. They were silversmiths who made silver shrines of Diana. they were concerned that Paul had brought their “trade into dispute” by preaching that “there are no gods, that are made with hands” (19:26). The craftsmen pled their case on the basis of their loyalty to the goddess Diana. The city was turned into a state of confusion, and an uproar erupted which lasted for the space of two hours. The uproar terminated Paul’s work in Ephesus.

I. Paul to Macedonia.

A. Paul left Ephesus for Macedonia

1. He went first to Troas.
2. II Cor. 2:12,13
3. Paul had sent Titus to Corinth to assist the brethren.
4. Titus was not in Troas when Paul arrived.

B. From Troas to Macedonia.

1. Greece was the geographical region.
2. Paul spent three months in this area.
3. Instead of sailing into Syria, he decided to stick to land because he learned that a plot was laid against his life by the Jews.
4. The group of men in verse 4 left Macedonia before Paul and sailed to Troas and waited for him.

C. Upon the first day of the week.

1. Disciples came together to break bread.
2. The disciples assembled on the first day of the week for the explicit purpose to break bread.
3. First day of the week is the greatest and most momentous day in the annuals of history.

D. Paul preached till midnight.

1. Eutychus fell asleep and fell out the window.
2. Paul restore life to him.
3. They took food, talked a long while and then departed.
4. Some believe v. 11 has reference to taking Lord’s Supper.

E. Paul traveled by land to Assos.

1. After preaching all night, he walked the 20 miles to Assos.
2. He boarded the ship to Mitylene.
3. Several cities are visited (Chios, Samos, Trogyllium, Miletus).
4. Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem for Day of Pentecost.

II. From Miletus he sent for Ephesian elders.

A. Kept back nothing.

1. He had faithfully and unflinchingly declared unto them everything which could benefit them.
2. II Timothy 4:1-5
3. Paul was uncompromising in preaching the gospel, yet tenderhearted.
4. It is not an easy task to preach the straight truth when you feel almost sure that it will hurt the feelings of those you love, and perhaps turn them against you.
5. Paul taught publicly and from house to house.
6. He taught the need to repent and the need for faith.

B. The blessing of Uncertainty.

1. He knew that some very difficult trials would be experienced (v.23).
2. He did not know whether the bonds would be any different.
3. He did not know their final outcome, whether left or death.

4. I John 5:4
- C. None of these things move me... (v.24)
 1. He did not consider his life so valuable that he would turn away from bonds and persecutions (thereby sacrificing duty) just to preserve himself alive.
 2. Finishing his course was more important than preserving his life.
 3. Pure from the blood. . .
 4. Whatever would contribute to their salvation was what Paul preached.
 5. Whole purpose (counsel) of God.
- D. Paul Before the Ephesian Elders (28-35).
 1. Care and leadership of the church (elders).
 2. Church was purchased at great price.
 3. Grievous wolves—dangerous, rending wolves.
 - a. Matthew 7:15f—disguised in sheep’s clothing.
 - b. Seek to destroy the church.
 4. Some will arise from within the church.
 5. Watch... Be vigilant to keep false teachers out.
 6. Commend you to God. (v.32)
 - a. Commend—entrust.
 - b. God and His word will build you up.
 7. Paul had worked to support self.
 - a. Paul sought their souls, not their money.
 - b. We must work, teach our children to work, help those who are in need.
 - c. The word spoken in verse 35 were to encourage helpfulness.
- E. His departure.
 1. Kneeled and prayed.
 - a. Humility and deep earnestness.
 - b. Reverence for God.
 - c. Attitude of the heart is important thing.
 2. Tears shed. (Scene not soon forgotten!)
 3. See him no more (this side of heaven)

Conc.: First day of the week. . . exhortation to the Ephesian elders. Preaching the gospel was of the utmost importance to Paul. Importance of elders and their work. The price Christ paid for the church. So much in this chapter.