

March 11, 2018
Acts 20:13-38

PAUL'S FAREWELL

I. Introduction:

II. Unpacking The Passage

A. The Journey From Troas To Miletus (Acts 20:13-17)

¹³ We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. ¹⁴ When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. ¹⁵ The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. ¹⁶ Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost. ¹⁷ From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church

B. Paul Reflects Upon His Ministry (Acts 20:18-21)

¹⁸ When they arrived, he said to them: "You know how I lived the whole time **I was with you**, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. ¹⁹ **I served the Lord with great humility and with tears** and in the midst of **severe testing** by the plots of my Jewish opponents. "You know that **I have not hesitated to preach** anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house." "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks **that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.**"

Lessons From Paul's Ministry:

- Paul's Ministry Was _____
- Paul's Ministry Was One Of _____
- Paul's Ministry Was One Of _____
- Paul's Ministry Was One Of _____
- Paul's Ministry Was One _____

C. Scene of Final Farewell (Acts 20:36-38)

³⁶ When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷ They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. ³⁸ What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

III. Conclusion And Application:

POINTS TO PONDER Week Beginning March 12th Acts 20:13-38

Open It

1. Who is one person you have trained or taught a skill in the last few years?
2. What is one of the hardest things about leaving home?
3. *If you knew that this would be your last day with your loved ones, what would you want to say to them?
4. How do you usually say good-bye?

Explore It

5. What did Paul do when the rest of his party sailed for Assos? (20:13)
6. After meeting at Assos, where did the journey take Paul and his companions? (20:14-15)
7. Why did the group bypass Ephesus? (20:16)
8. At Miletus, for whom did Paul send? (20:17)
9. What was the gist of Paul's talk to the Ephesian elders? (20:18-35)
10. *What did Paul say in review of his ministry in Ephesus? (20:18-21)
11. How did the apostle describe the present situation? (20:22-27)
12. Why did Paul expect trouble in Jerusalem? (20:22-23)
13. How did Paul describe his life and mission? (20:24)
14. *What made Paul "innocent of the blood of all men"? (20:26-27)
15. *What were the future responsibilities of the Ephesian elders? (20:28-35)
16. How did the elders display their deep love for Paul? (20:36-38)
17. How did Paul and the elders say their good-byes? (20:36-38)
18. What saddened the group most? (20:38)

Get It

19. What kind of send-off does your church give someone on his or her way to the mission field?
20. When your church loses a member, how do people tend to grieve over the loss?
21. *How does Paul's life and work challenge you?
22. How is your pastor's work in the church like Paul's ministry among the Ephesians?
23. How did the Holy Spirit help Paul?
24. How does the Holy Spirit lead and guide us?
25. *Why do mature Christians need to "be on guard" and "watch over" younger believers in their congregation?
26. How would you describe your work for God's kingdom?
27. What does it mean to commit someone else to God?
28. Why did Paul support himself financially?
29. How can we stay blameless in the way we support ourselves and our church's work?

Apply It

30. How can you give to others this week?
31. How can you draw guidance and comfort from the Holy Spirit today?
32. *Who is one other believer for whom you can be a "shepherd" or guide this week? How?