

Bible Stories for Adults

Paul's Third Missionary Journey - Part 2

Acts 20

Opening

Gathering: Why is it difficult to say goodbye to someone when you expect you will never see them again?

Today's Focus: Paul completed his Third Journey understanding that God had other plans for him in other places.

Key Verses: *I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me – the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. Acts 20:24*

In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus Himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Apollos (Acts 18:23-28)

How did Paul begin his third journey?

Acts 18:23

What new missionary started working during this time that Paul was in Antioch and Galatia?

Acts 18:24-25

Ephesus - Capital of Asia, Large and wealthy - Called the *Treasure House of Asia*

Seat of Pan-Ionian Games, Asylum for criminals, Center of magic and superstition

How did Apollos learn the message of salvation to complete the stories he knew about Jesus?

Acts 18:26

With Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus, where could Apollos be more effective?

Acts 18:27-28 (1 Corinthians 1:11-15; 3:3-9)

Incomplete Christians (Acts 19:1-7)

Where did Paul go on his third journey after Galatia and who did he meet as he arrived?

Acts 19:1-3

Why was John's baptism incomplete?

Acts 19:4

What did these incomplete Christians do after hearing Paul's message of Jesus' gospel?

Acts 19:5-7

Luke records the Spirit to 4 groups: Jews-2, Samaritans-8, Gentiles-10, incomplete Christians-19

Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:8-12)

With a church developed by Aquila and Priscilla, did Paul spend his time teaching that church?

Acts 19:8

How was he received by the Jews?

Acts 19:9-10

How effective was Paul during this time?

Acts 19:11-12

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Ephesian Magic (Acts 19:13-20)

How were Paul's extraordinary powers received in this center of magic?

Acts 19:13

How did God make it clear that the name of Jesus wasn't just a new magic spell?

Acts 19:14-16

How did people respond when they heard that Jesus' name was too powerful for casual use?

Acts 19:17-20

Ephesian Letters - Tiny scrolls with magical spells worn on necklace to bring success in life

Time to Leave (Acts 19:21-22)

After 3 months in the Ephesus synagogue and 2 years in the lecture hall, what did Paul decide?

Acts 19:21-22

Besides checking up on things, what did Paul intend to do by passing through Greece?

1 Corinthians 16:1-4 (also Romans 15:25-27)

Why did Paul send Timothy and Erastus ahead?

1 Corinthians 4:17; 7:1; 16:5-9

Note: Paul wrote 1 Corinthians before leaving Ephesus after sending Timothy & Erastus to Macedonia

After staying in the Ephesus area *a little longer*, how long did Paul spend in Ephesus total?

Acts 20:31

Artists of Artemis (Acts 19:23-41)

What incident led to Paul leaving Ephesus?

Acts 19:23-27

Artemis (*Diana* in Latin) - Multibreasted fertility goddess, statue fell from sky (likely a meteorite)

Temple of Artemis - One of the *Seven Wonders of the World*, 425' L x 220' W x 60' T

127 marble pillars, each given by a king; Altar by greatest Greek sculptor, Praxiteles

What did the rest of the crafts union think about this threat?

Acts 19:28-29

Did Paul find a place to hide so he wouldn't be lynched by this wild mob?

Acts 19:30-31

How organized was the crowd?

Acts 19:32-34

The Courts Are Open (Acts 19:35-20:1)

Who finally stood up and stopped the mayhem?

Acts 19:35-37

What did the city clerk think should be done about the threat to the souvenir business?

Acts 19:38-39

Did the city clerk's efforts have any effect on the mob?

Acts 19:40-41

Did Paul immediately leave town because of the opposition?

Acts 20:1

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Corinthian Concerns (*2 Corinthians*)

- Where did Paul go after leaving Ephesus on his way to Macedonia?
2 Corinthians 2:12-13
- Did Paul find open doors and/or Titus in Macedonia?
2 Corinthians 7:5-7
- Why had Paul sent Titus to Corinth?
2 Corinthians 7:8-10
- If Paul was on his way to Corinth, why did he send this second letter at this time?
2 Corinthians 8:16-17; 9:2-5

Grecian Travels (*Acts 20:2-6*)

- What does Luke tell us about Paul's time in Macedonia and Achaia (Corinth)?
Acts 20:2-3a
- What were Paul's plans after taking offerings to Jerusalem church?
Romans 15:23-28
- How were Paul's plans to go to Jerusalem in time for the Passover changed?
Acts 20:3b
- Did the churches send anyone with Paul to deliver their offerings?
Acts 20:4
- Who joined Paul to represent the church in Philippi?
Acts 20:5-6
- If God had not led Paul back through Macedonia, we might not have books of Luke and Acts

Troas - The City of Open Doors and Windows (*Acts 20:7-12*)

- Did early Christians meet on the Sabbath (Saturday) like the Jews?
Acts 20:7
- What happened when Paul's long sermon hit the midnight mark?
Acts 20:8-9
- What did Paul do after Dr. Luke had pronounced Eutychus dead?
Acts 20:10
- Did Paul take the hint that his sermon was too long?
Acts 20:11-12

On the Road Again (*Acts 20:13-17*)

- After preaching all night, did Paul spend the next day sleeping on the ship to Jerusalem?
Acts 20:13
- Now that Luke was with Paul, do we get more details about his travels?
Acts 20:14-15
- After 3 years in Ephesus, how could Paul just pass by without visiting his friends and coworkers?
Acts 20:16
- Did Paul even think about his friends and coworkers in Ephesus as he sailed by?
Acts 20:17

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Past, Present and Future (*Acts 20:18-35*)

What motive did Paul claim for his earlier work in Ephesus and what manner proved it?

Acts 20:18-19

What message had Paul taught as he served the Lord in Ephesus?

Acts 20:20-21

What plans did Paul tell the Ephesians he presently had?

Acts 20:22-23

Why would Paul go to Jerusalem if prison and hardship was facing him?

Acts 20:24

Why was Paul telling the Ephesians all of this?

Acts 20:25-27

What guidance did Paul want to leave with them?

Acts 20:28-31

How would they be able to protect the flock from savage wolves?

Acts 20:32

How would they know how to lead the flock at Ephesus?

Acts 20:33-35

Sad Farewells (*Acts 20:36-21:16*)

How did the Ephesians respond to what Paul had said?

Acts 20:36-38

Where did Paul and his companions go then?

Acts 21:1-3

What did Paul and his group do during the week that the ship was unloading cargo in Tyre?

Acts 21:4

Since they had only known these Christians one week, was the good-bye any easier?

Acts 21:5-6

Where did they go next?

Acts 21:7-9

Did the Christians in Caesarea try to stop Paul from going on to Jerusalem?

Acts 21:10-12

Did this change Paul's mind?

Acts 21:13-16

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Who has been an encouragement to me during difficult times?
(*2 Corinthians 7:5-7; Judges 20:22; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; 1 Tim 4:12-16; Hebrews 12:1-13*)
2. How have I encouraged others when they needed it?
(*Acts 20:17-38; 2 Chronicles 32:1-8; Isaiah 1:17; 1 Thess 5:11-14; Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25*)
3. When have I experienced godly sorrow? Did it lead me to repentance?
(*2 Corinthians 7:8-12; 2 Samuel 11-12; Ezra 9:1-10:4; Luke 19:1-10; Acts 2:36-41*)
4. How well have I given myself first to the Lord and then to others in rich generosity?
(*2 Corinthians 8-9; Exodus 36:1-7; Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Acts 20:32-35; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*)
5. How have I sacrificed my security and comfort in order to finish the race and complete the task?
(*Acts 20:21-24; 21:4, 10-14; Matthew 6:25-34; 19:16-30; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Galatians 5:7*)