

Acts 20:13-38

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 10-11-17

Context

IV. The Apostle to the Gentiles (12:25-21:17)

- A. The first missionary journey (12:25-14:28)
- B. The Council of Jerusalem (15:1-16:5)
- C. Mission in Macedonia (16:6-17:15)
- D. Paul in Athens (17:16-34)
- E. Corinth and Ephesus (18:1-19:41)
- F. **More about Ephesus (20:1-21:17)**

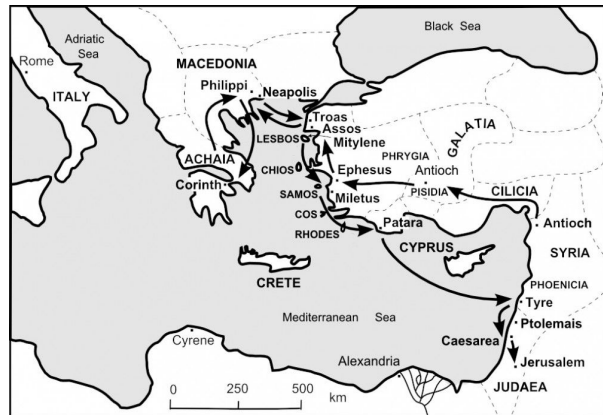
The Voyage to Miletus (vv. 13-16)

Breathless account of Paul's travels from Troas to Miletus

- V. 16 - in a hurry
- V. 13 - sent everyone south by boat while he walked alone by road - Why?
- Vv. 14ff. - meet up/set sail for Mitylene (Lesbos)

Paul's Address to the Ephesian Elders (vv. 17-38)

Vv. 17-18a - called for the elders - 3 days, round trip



Introductory points

- Only speech in Acts made to _____
 - Evangelistic sermons to either Jewish (2:14ff.; 3:12ff.; 13:16ff.) or Gentile audiences (10:34ff.; 14:14ff.; 17:22ff.), legal defenses before the Sanhedrin (4:8ff.; 5:29ff.; 7:1ff.) or the 5 speeches before Jewish or Roman authorities in chs. 22-26.
- Feels like reading an epistle - resemblance of themes: Grace of God (vv. 24, 32), Kingdom of God (v. 25), Purpose of God (v. 27), Redeeming blood of Christ (v. 28), Repentance and faith (v. 21), Church of God and its edification (vv. 28, 32), Inevitability of suffering (vv. 23-24), Danger of false teachers (vv. 29-30), Need for vigilance (vv. 28, 31), Running the race (v. 24), Final inheritance (v. 32)

The message of his speech:

- His _____ ministry in Ephesus (vv. 18b-21)
 - V. 18b - "you yourselves know"
 - Reminiscent of I Thess. 2 (6x) - smear campaign in Thessalonica
 - Defending his sincerity of motives and reminding them of how he had lived there
 - Appealed to their memory of: His humility, tears, testings, teachings
 - For pastors/leaders: Prepare yourselves for the slander/criticism/malighting
 - For everyone else: _____ what you know to be true about your pastors/leaders

- His _____ sufferings (vv. 22-27)
 - “you know” → “I know” by means of the HS
 - Who warns him (v. 23) and compels him on toward Jerusalem (v. 22)
 - Not driven by the impulse to _____ at all costs, but to _____ Christ’s task for him, no matter the costs.
 - Senses deep in his heart that he will not be seeing them again - has a clean conscience

- His _____ exhortation to the elders (vv. 28-35)
 - Their final charge: _____ (“be on guard,” v. 28; “be on the alert,” v. 31)
 - V. 28 - “be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock”
 - Cannot care for others if you do not adequately care for yourself
 - NOT the opposite of Phil. 2:4
 - “shepherds” _____ and _____ (Ez. 34:2)
 - V. 29 - “after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock”
 - False teachers always come when Paul leaves, even from within the flock (cf. Timothy, letter to Ephesus in Revelation 2:1ff.)
 - V. 32 - commends them to God and his word of grace
 - Reminds them of his selfless service for Christ, who himself said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

The farewell (vv. 36-38)

Ideals of Pastoral Ministry

- The _____ of the apostle (the shepherd)
 - Thorough in his _____
 - Thorough in his _____
 - Thorough in his _____
 - All possible truth with all possible people in all possible ways
 - The whole gospel to the whole city with his whole strength.

- The _____ of false teachers (the wolves)
 - Chief enemies of sheep in the ANE - constant threat
 - Jesus: “wolves in sheep’s clothing” (Matt. 7:15)
 - Double-duty: to feed and protect (cf. Titus 1:7-9)
 - Neglect = “hirelings who care nothing for the flock” (John 10:12ff.), leading to the scattering of God’s people to become food for wild animals (Ez. 34:5).

- The _____ of the people (the sheep)
 - V. 28 - The flock ultimately belongs to God
 - “The church of God”
 - “Purchased with his own blood”
 - Over whom “the Holy Spirit made (them) as overseers”
 - The nature of sheep who are _____ to God