

Union Bethel AME Church (dial-in and Facebook™ Live)
Bible Study Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#
Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 6:30-7:30 PM

Acts 20:1-38 to Act 21:1-26

Paul completes his third missionary journey in these verses in Acts. He prepares to go to Jerusalem and then to Rome. Paul gives words of encouragement to those who he mentored and supported in their missionary work. Paul knows that he must go to the city that is the foundation of Roman power. Even though Paul is a Roman citizen, he knows that his reception in Rome as a follower of “The Way” will put his life at risk. Prior to arriving in Rome, Paul says farewell to fellow missionaries and travels to Jerusalem.

Acts 20:1-6

Paul was still under attack. While Paul was in Macedonia there was a plot against Paul. Instead of sailing to Syria, Paul goes to Macedonia accompanied by Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Timothy, Tychicus, and Trophimus. They leave after the Festival of Unleavened Bread. These 7 days begin with Passover, a High Holy Day.

What is both similar and different about this trip that Paul is taking to Macedonia?



Acts 20:7-12

Paul travels to Troas to visit and teach. On his last night a young man, Eutychus, sat in a window listening to Paul. He became sleepy and fell 3 stories to his death. Paul went to Eutychus and brought him back to life. Paul then continued with breaking bread and teaching the people.

Why was Paul relaxed and not making more of a point about what happened with Eutychus?

Acts 20:13-16

Paul's companions continue to sail to meet him in Assos. Paul's focus was on arrival in Jerusalem. Paul wanted final words with the leaders at Ephesus but he did not want to tarry there. Paul was motivated highly to get to Jerusalem. Paul intended to celebrate Shavout (Pentecost) in Jerusalem. Shavout is one of 3 pilgrimage festivals in Judaism. The Shavout, Festival of Weeks, begins with the 7 weeks after Pesach (Passover). The third is the Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles or Booths. Paul preaches salvation through Christ Jesus but Paul still observes the Hebrew holy days.

Why is celebrating the holy days important to Paul and why is it important for Christians?

Acts 20:17-38

Paul met with the church elders from Ephesus to provide one last personal message. Paul reminds the elders how Paul lived among them in humility and service. Paul also reminded the elders that salvation was for both Jews and Gentiles. The deep concern was false prophets leading people astray, diluting the gospel truth. Paul wanted the elders to understand their responsibility to the truth. They needed to grasp the concept that Paul worked to provide for himself and his companions. It was then and is now necessary to support those who need help and to live by the concept that it

is more blessed to give than to receive. Then Paul knelt down and prayed with the elders from the church at Ephesus. They all wept.

What important information do we get from these few Scriptures?

Acts 21:1-16

Paul was warned by many people not to go to Jerusalem. In Tyre several disciples told Paul “in the Spirit” not to go to Jerusalem. In Ptolemais a prophet names Agabus bound Paul with Paul’s own belt to signify how Paul would be treated in Jerusalem. The Jewish people would hand Paul over to the Gentiles. Paul would not be dissuaded.

Why was Paul so focused on going to Jerusalem?

Acts 21:17-26

Paul goes to the elders in Jerusalem and informs them of the work done for both Jews and Gentiles. There was misinformation circulating about what Paul was teaching. The elders and the people were told that Paul forsook his Hebrew roots. To show that Paul was still observant he was asked to participate in the rite of purification with 4 other men who were in a vow. The elders in Jerusalem also sent a letter to the Gentiles who were believers to ask that they stay away from anything sacrificed to idols, from anything that was strangled, and from fornication. The fornication was tied to pagan rituals of worship. Even though this letter was sent and Paul clarified the events during his missionary journeys, people still misspoke about Paul’s missionary work.

Why is misinformation so dangerous?
