

Chapter 20: The Encouragement Tour

Intro: Once upon a time …

Main point of Chapter 20 – The most effective Christians are not remembered for what they accomplished, but for the people they encouraged.

- **Paul's care for the Ephesian church and surrounding areas**
- **Paul's care for the churches in Macedonia and Greece**
- **Paul's care for the church in Traos**
- **Paul's care for Jerusalem church**
- **Paul's care for the church in Ephesus**



Acts 20:1-6

Paul leaves Ephesus in a cloud of encouragement

We're on the move

What is the significance of this list of names and places?

- Paul's farewell tour: the encouragement tour
- The collection for the Jerusalem church – Romans 15:24-28
- Who and where?
  - Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus,
  - Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus
  - Gaius of Derbe
  - Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus
  - And which major Macedonian city is missing? _____
  - And who was that city's representative? _____

Acts 20: 7-12

Encouragement at Troas

Insert long winded preacher joke here

Do any questions arise from this section?

- Does verse 9 and 10 contradict each other?
  - Headings
  - Textual context
  - A language link 1 Kg 17:21-22 Elijah & 2 Kg 4:34-35 Elisha

On the move again

Acts 20:13-16

Hastening to be at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost

Acts 20:17-23

Encouragement at Miletus

The balanced approach

- I did not shrink & anything that was profitable
- Declaring & teaching
- In public & from house to house
- Jews & Greeks
- Repentance toward God & faith in our Lord Jesus Christ

What is the best way to live out this life of encouragement? – v 18-19

- You know
- Serving the Lord
    - Humility
    - Tears
    - Trials

Acts 20:24-27

The faithful leader

- Leaving the churches with Elders
- I do not account …
- If only I may finish …
- Honest communication
- This is the last goodbye
- I am innocent … for I did not shrink

Acts 20:28-35

The wise leader

- Pay careful attention
    - To yourselves
    - To all the flock
- Wolves will come in among you
- Some of you will speak twisted things
    - Drawing others after them
- Be alert
- I commend you
    - To God
    - To the Word of His grace
- I have shown that by working hard

Que the water works

Acts 20:36-38

Turning a departure into a blessing.

So why is all of this important for us today?

- Live a life of encouragement – Who can I encourage today, this week?
- Protect your heart, and your church – Walk in accountability
- Finish the race – Am I merely passing time? Or am I intentionally learning and finishing the race Jesus has given to me?

Acts 20 reminds us that a successful Christian life is not measured by applause, comfort, or popularity. It is measured by faithfulness. Faithfully encouraging people, faithfully guarding the truth, and faithfully finishing the race.