



A Gospel Goodbye (Part 1) • Acts 20:17-24

In Acts 20:17–38, we find Paul’s final words to the elders of the church in Ephesus. Standing on the shore, with both tenderness and urgency, he reflects on his ministry among them and exhorts them to follow the example he has set. At the heart of this passage is Paul’s deep love for the Lord Jesus, his devotion to the people of God, and his unwavering commitment to the ongoing work of the gospel. In this “Gospel Goodbye,” we hear an echo of what ought to be the passion of every believer: a life poured out in joyful service to Christ, his church, and his mission.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Shaping Question: Are we pouring out our lives so fully into Christ’s people that, if the Lord were to move us, we too would experience a gospel goodbye?*
2. How did Paul’s life model his commitment to gospel service? What examples can we learn from him as we seek to lead lives of gospel service?
3. What role does beholding and believing Christ’s humility play in the Spirit’s shaping of our own humility?
4. Discuss the differences between evangelism and discipleship as a group. Why must we at The Trails Church hold fast to the doctrines of both evangelism and discipleship?
5. When Paul was converted to Christianity his mindset changed — what were the three changes that Matt mentioned? How should these realities reshape our affections and longings?