



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 44 – Acts 20

People — Who is involved?

Paul – preaching in Greece & back to Ephesus.
Associates - Sopater of Berea; Aristarchus and Secundus of Thessalonica; Gaius of Derbe; Timothy, Tychicus, and Trophimus of Asia.
Eutychus – raised from death at Troas.
Elders of the Ephesian church.

Places — Where does it happen?

Macedonia and Achaia (Greece) – vss. 1-6
Troas – vss. 7-12
Miletus – vss. 15-38

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

- Vs 2 – Greece here refers to Achaia and the cities where Paul had established congregations. We should note that Paul continues to gather the collection for the saints in Judea as he travels (see Romans 15:25-26; 2 Cor. 8:16-24).
- Vs 4 – There are seven men accompanying Paul. These are identified with churches or geographic areas. These, no doubt, are messengers of churches who contributed to needs in Judea (1 Cor. 16:1-4).
- Vs 6 – Notice, we are back in a “we” section indicating that Luke also accompanied Paul at this time.
- Vs 7 – Christians met on the first day of the week to worship (see also 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10). Some question whether this was Saturday evening (Jewish) or Sunday (Roman accounting of time). It is most likely Roman in this part of the world (sunrise to sunrise).
- Vs 9 – Eutychus’ age is unknown. He falls as a result of going to sleep in the window.
- Vs 13 – Assos was a port twenty miles southwest of Troas, on a volcanic hill facing the island of Lesbos.
- Vs 15 – Chios was the island birthplace of Homer who wrote The Iliad and its sequel, The Odyssey. Samos was the island birthplace of Pythagoras who discovered the geometric Pythagorean Theorem
- Vs 15 – Miletus is thirty miles south of Ephesus. On to Jerusalem would have been a trip of over 600 miles
- Vs 17 – The following verses contain the only speech of Paul given exclusively to Christians in Acts. The address is given to the “elders” (plural). There is nothing here about a presiding “bishop”. In vs. 17, they are called presbuteroi (Gr: elders); in 38, they are identified as both episcopoi (overseers, bishops, superintendents) and poimein (shepherds or pastors). See also 1 Pet. 5:1-4.
- Vs 30 – This might refer to these particular men or to men who would serve among the elders later.
- Vs 35 – This reference is not directly quoted from one of the Gospel accounts.
- Vs 38 – Their great sorrow was his words that they would not see him again (see vs. 25).

Perspectives – What may I learn from this chapter?

1. The disciples met for worship (specifically here the Lord’s Supper) on the first day of the week.
2. Paul’s preaching was exemplary. It provides an example of the spirit and actions of preachers today.
3. Elders have necessary responsibilities to guard their own lives and take heed to the church as well.