

## Acts Part 40

### Recap

- Luke, the author, is traveling with Paul, a central figure in this book, who was once a zealous Jew who persecuted early Christians, had a radical encounter with the Living Son of God (Jesus), was converted, and has dedicated his life to sharing this News with everyone he can
- We see miracles performed, Christians martyred, churches forming on a large scale, Jews and Gentiles believing the message, more persecution, and last week, riots due to the influence of the message Paul and others have been sharing
- Paul's typical schedule looks like:
  - 1) Arrive in new city
  - 2) Go to synagogue - teach
  - 3) Once rejected from synagogue (three months in Ephesus), go to public market, make tents, preach
  - 4) Eventually get kicked out of town / thrown in prison / be put under threat / tortured / etc.
  - 5) Be released from whatever persecution he's undergoing
  - 6) Leave for a new city
  - 7) Rinse. Repeat.
- Quite a bit of time in Ephesus (~3 years) and the city is undergoing radical transformation due to the proliferation of the Gospel
- He is staying *on purpose*, he is *resolved*

### **Acts 20:1-16**

<sup>1</sup>After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. <sup>2</sup>When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece. <sup>3</sup>There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews<sup>[a]</sup> as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. <sup>4</sup>Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. <sup>5</sup>These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, <sup>6</sup>but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came

to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.<sup>7</sup> On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. <sup>8</sup> There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. <sup>9</sup> And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. <sup>10</sup> But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him." <sup>11</sup> And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. <sup>12</sup> And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.<sup>13</sup> But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. <sup>14</sup> And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. <sup>15</sup> And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and<sup>[b]</sup> the day after that we went to Miletus. <sup>16</sup> For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

### **Acts 20:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>After the uproar ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and after encouraging them, he said farewell and departed for Macedonia. <sup>2</sup> When he had gone through those regions and had given them much encouragement, he came to Greece.

- Upon his departure, Paul always encourages his fellow believers - the word here is the same used to describe the Holy Spirit (comforter)
  - Take a note for today as you leave
- See Acts 16-17 for who he is visiting in "those regions"

### **Acts: 20:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. <sup>4</sup> Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and

Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. <sup>5</sup> These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, <sup>6</sup> but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

- The Christian on a mission is *on purpose*, is *resolute*, and can *flex* with the schedule
- See the plan to sail from Greece directly to Syria, but due to the threat, Paul takes the long way back around the coast

### **1 Corinthians 5:7**

<sup>7</sup> Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.

### **Acts 20:7-9a**

<sup>7</sup> On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight. <sup>8</sup> There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered. <sup>9</sup> And a young man named Eutychus, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer.

- Christians meeting together on the first day of the week?
- Paul is on a roll here, going until midnight
  - Paul knows this may be the last chance he gets to be with these Christians
- Eutychus - "well-fated" or "fortunate" - an apt name

### **Acts 20:9b-10**

And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. <sup>10</sup> But Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, "Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him."

- Don't forget...Luke is there. He's a physician. This guy is dead. "Nekros" is Greek word here
- Paul "takes him in his arms" - a different form of embrace, one that entails enclosing completely

### **Acts 20:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed. <sup>12</sup> And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.

- What are they discussing? The phrase “conversed with them a long while” in the Greek gives us a hint as to what they’re discussing (not monologue) - “logos”
  - This was point 2 in Pastor Johnny’s sermon from Acts 19 two weeks ago - are you talking about Jesus
- *Be present*
- Paul understands the value here, he understands the circumstances, and he has the joy that thrives on time spent in the moment with loved ones

### **Matthew 6:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? <sup>26</sup> Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup> And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?”

### **James 4:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— <sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

- The Christian living on a ***purpose*** is ***resolved***, is ***flexible***, and is ***present***

### **Acts 20:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. <sup>14</sup> And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. <sup>15</sup> And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and<sup>[b]</sup> the day after that we went to Miletus. <sup>16</sup> For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend

time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

## **Communion**

### **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

<sup>23</sup> For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, <sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." <sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.