

# BIGGER THAN YOU

## Lesson 19 Soldiering On

### Acts 20

*Following the uproar in Ephesus, which we studied in our previous lesson, Paul now begins his journey toward Jerusalem. Some of Acts 20 reads almost like a travel log. Places, timetables, and traveling companions are recorded in some detail. However, in this chapter, we also get a glimpse into the life of the early church. Luke chronicles the unusual circumstances surrounding Paul's message to believers in Troas and the actual content of Paul's message to the Ephesian elders.*

#### Read Acts 20:1-6

1. After the riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41), Paul leaves Ephesus to go to Jerusalem. He takes the long way, going through Macedonia and Greece (Achaia).
  - a. Following the riot, who does Paul send for and why (verse 1)?
  - b. As Paul is traveling, what do you imagine he is saying as he encourages believers?
  - c. The Christian life can be difficult and exhausting. How can we be intentional about encouraging others?
  - d. Why does Paul decide to go from Greece through Macedonia, instead of sailing to Syria (verse 3)?
  - e. From the map on page 3, locate where Paul's traveling companions are from. It may be that these men were representatives from the various regions.
  - f. Note the details in verse 6. Answer: Who? What? Why? Where? When? And for how long?

#### Read Acts 20:7-12

2. Some scholars think that verse 7 is evidence that the early church met on Sunday and took communion. The first day of the week would have been a work day. So it is possible that the meeting occurred in the evening, after work.
  - a. What did the believers do when they came together (verse 7)?
  - b. Read Luke 22:19-20. What did Jesus do with his disciples at the Last Supper?
  - c. Review Acts 2:42 and 46. What did the believers do together?
  - d. Returning to Acts 20:7, do you think this verse is a mandate for Sunday worship and communion? Why or why not?
3. Even though we don't know the content of Paul's message, Luke gives us many details about what happened.
  - a. Why does Paul keep talking late into the night (verse 7)?
  - b. Thinking about the room and the hour, why might Eutychus have fallen asleep?
  - c. What details from the text might suggest that Eutychus actually died, as opposed to being unconscious?
  - d. What apparently happens to Eutychus in verses 10-11?
  - e. What will the people remember from that evening?



- c. What is Paul's message about financial support for ministry workers? (See Gal. 6:6.)
  - d. From verse 35, summarize Paul's view of leadership.
  - e. Jesus's words in verse 35 are not found in any of the gospels. Jesus could have spoken directly to Paul, or it could be part of the oral tradition. Explain how this verse is consistent with Jesus's teaching. (See Matt. 10:8 and Luke 6:38.)
10. Previously, we have seen Paul attacked (Acts 14:19, 16:22, 18:12), imprisoned (Acts 16:23), and run out of town (Acts 13:50, 14:5-6, 17:14) by the Jews. Explain how and why the farewell in verses 36-37 is different.
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11. Paul's message to the Ephesian elders gives us great insight into his thoughts on Christian leadership. Each of us, in our own way, is called to lead. We may lead our families, our unbelieving friends, our neighbors, or co-workers. How are you preparing to be an effective leader?



**You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.**  
**Acts 1:8**