

## Acts 20:7-38

### *Wrapping Up Loose Ends*

? Icebreaker: What's something that you've put off recently that you want to get done soon?

#### **Acts 20:7-12 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup>On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. <sup>8</sup>There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. <sup>9</sup>Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. <sup>10</sup>Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" <sup>11</sup>Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. <sup>12</sup>The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.

#### **What's In A Name?**

According to Easton's Bible Dictionary, Eutychus' name means "Happy" or "Fortunate." How does that strike you?

<http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/eutych>

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#### **Discussion Questions**

? Paul knew God had the power to bring Eutychus back to life. Why do you think he believed this miracle could happen?

? How do you think miracles like this impacted Paul's ministry?

? How would you feel if you were Eutychus, or his friends or family?

? What does this miracle say about God's power and care for those people, and for people in general?

#### **Read Out Loud: Acts 20:13-38 (NIV)**

<sup>13</sup>We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. <sup>14</sup>When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. <sup>15</sup>The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. <sup>16</sup>Paul had decided to

sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.

<sup>17</sup> From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. <sup>18</sup> When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. <sup>19</sup> I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. <sup>20</sup> You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. <sup>21</sup> I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.

<sup>22</sup> “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup> I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. <sup>24</sup> However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

<sup>25</sup> “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. <sup>27</sup> For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. <sup>28</sup> Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. <sup>30</sup> Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.

<sup>32</sup> “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. <sup>35</sup> In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”

<sup>36</sup> When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. <sup>37</sup> They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. <sup>38</sup> What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

#### **Chewing The Fat**

**Eutychus, Paul, and the others went up and ate after Eutychus was raised from the dead, which may seem like an odd thing to note. However, Jesus told the parents of the girl he raised from the dead to give her something to eat, and when Jesus rose from the dead and met his disciples on the beach he ate in front of them. There’s something undeniably human and normal about eating with others, that shows a body and not just a soul. “Breaking bread” could also mean having communion together, providing the believers a chance to deepen their spiritual connection and thank God for the miracle they just witnessed.**

**?** Verse 22 says that Paul is “compelled by the Spirit.” Have you ever felt God calling you to something you didn’t want to do? How did you respond, and do you wish you had responded differently?

? Looking at verse 24, Paul considered his life worth nothing. Why do you think Paul was so driven? What can we learn from his attitude, and how can we apply it to our own lives?

#### **Saying Grace**

God's goodness and grace are through-lines of every letter Paul wrote. The apostle talks about himself before he met God as the chief of sinners with a perfect Jewish pedigree, but that his history means nothing compared to God's grace. We also have nothing in ourselves that is admirable or praiseworthy except as relates to obeying God and serving Him in His grace. We cannot earn our forgiveness; it is always and only a gift from God.

? Look at the commands Paul gives to the Christians in verses 25-31. How are these still relevant for believers today?

? Does obeying God mean we will not suffer? How can we find courage to face our future serving God?

? The last thing Paul did with the believers in Ephesus was pray. Why might it be significant that they did this together?

? Paul knew he was never going to see these people again. How do you think that affected what he said?

#### **For Discussion and Accountability**

? If you knew you weren't going to see someone you loved again, what words would you want to leave them with? What do you need to say to someone this week to express God's love or to bring about reconciliation in a relationship?

? Paul said his greatest aim was to testify to the good news of God's grace. How are you being called to a similar goal? What does it look like to live out the gospel in your life or profession? In your family? With your friends? With strangers?