

# Acts 20:1-16

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- **SENTENCE OF DEATH ...**

- The Plan...

- Paul had a PLAN on what he WANTED do after the REVIVAL in Ephesus...
    - He would travel to Philippi [Macedonia] - then to Corinth [Achaia]
    - He had written a letter to Corinth because of all the problems they were having...
    - Then travel to Jerusalem - and from there he must go to ROME...
    - But he ended up sending Timothy and Erastus instead...
    - Because of a GREAT opportunity - the Festival of Diana in Ephesus - **I Corinthians 16:8-9**

- The Riot...

- Demetrius [idol maker] gathered all of the tradesmen...
    - Their profession was in danger because of the preaching of Paul [idols were NOT gods]
    - So they started a RIOT - stirring up the whole city - Great is Diana of Ephesus...
    - They filled the theatre [25 thousand] - but most did NOT know why they were there...
    - The crowd was CONFUSED - all shouting different things...
    - Paul wanted to go in and preach Jesus - but his friends wisely kept him away!

- End of Diana...

- The city SCRIBE [γραμματεὺς] quieted the crowd...
    - Everyone KNEW that Ephesus belonged to Diana - they had her TEMPLE...
    - If someone had a complaint the courts were open - a RIOT was not the right answer...
    - This CHURCH [ἐκκλησία] was in danger of being JUDGED [by Rome] - and he dismissed them...
    - The temple of Diana would ultimately collapse [only one column remains]
    - But this was the hardest day in the ministry of Paul - sentence of death - **II Corinthians 1:8-10**

- **1<sup>ST</sup> - BACK TO JERUSALEM... vs. 1-6**

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Busy Schedule... vs. 1-3

- Encouraging words... vs. 1-2

- After the uproar had ceased Paul called the disciples to himself.
      - [He] embraced them and departed to go to Macedonia.
      - Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words!
      - After the riot in Ephesus was OVER – Paul said goodbye to the believers there...
      - Then he went back to the church in Philippi [Macedonia] and encouraged [παρακαλέω] them!
      - There are a number of things that happened here NOT recorded in Acts...
      - After Paul left Ephesus - on his way up to Macedonia he stopped by Troas...
      - He preached the Gospel there because God opened a door – **II Corinthians 2:12-13**
      - Apparently there were many who were responding to the Gospel message...
      - Yet Paul had NO rest in his spirit so did NOT stay long...
      - Paul had sent TITUS from Ephesus to Corinth to deliver a SEVERE letter [not in the Bible]
      - This was the THIRD letter that Paul wrote to TROUBLED church in Corinth...
      - Written because the church did NOT respond well to his SECOND letter - **II Corinthians 2:4**
      - Paul was supposed to meet TITUS in Troas to hear how the SEVER letter was received...
      - But Titus was delayed leaving Paul ANXIOUS - worried for the church in Corinth...
      - Paul went ahead to Philippi - where he finally met Titus - **II Corinthians 7:5-6**
      - There at last he heard news - the church in Corinth had REPENTED...
      - And he wrote in Philippi his FOURTH letter to Corinth - **II Corinthians**

- Where he defended his AUTHORITY - and genuine LOVE - for the church...
  - So the book of ACTS gave us one phrase - the Holy Spirit gave us THIRTEEN chapters!
  - I often get asked what does a Pastor do on a daily basis...
  - The easy answer is - they ENCOURAGE [παρακαλέω] others with many words...
  - But that simple phrase can be deceptive - there is a lot going on people do NOT see...
  - There are the opportunities to teach the Word - preach the Gospel [Troas]
  - But there are also the PROBLEMS people are continually struggling with [Corinth]
  - And the heart of a pastor is often ANXIOUS - unsure if the people are willing to REPENT...
  - All the while keeping up with the weekly needs of the Church [Philippi]
  - Serving Jesus is NOT a part time job - the work NEVER ends!
  - **II Corinthians 11:28** - "Besides the other things what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches."
- Repentance... vs. 2-3
    - [Paul] came to Greece and stayed three months!
    - Paul did NOT want to come to Corinth [Greece] if they were still in SIN - **II Corinthians 2:1**
    - Because when he came a SECOND time [not recorded in Acts] it did NOT go well...
    - But with their REPENTANCE - it freed him to come for the THIRD time - **II Corinthians 2:14**
    - And also freed him up to turn his heart to future ministry - ROME - **Acts 19:21**
    - It is commonly believed during these THREE months Paul wrote the book of Romans!
    - One of the hardest things we have to face in life is FREE will...
    - It is easy for us to see what OTHER people need to do [repent - turn to Jesus]
    - But we CANNOT make them do the right things - they have to choose...
    - And until they do all that we can do is PRAY that the Lord moves in their heart!
    - Because if we try and force them it does not HELP - it only harms our relationship with them!
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Alternate route ... vs. 3,6
    - When the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria.
    - He decided to return through Macedonia...
    - We sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread.
    - And in five days joined them at Troas - where we stayed seven days!
    - Paul was about to board a BOAT from Corinth to Syria [going back to Antioch]
    - Filled with Jews traveling back to Jerusalem for PENTECOST [required feast] - **Exodus 23:17**
    - And these Jews plotted to kill Paul on the BOAT [once at sea]
    - But Paul found out about the PLOT - and traveled by LAND back to Philippi...
    - And instead departed from there by BOAT to get back to Jerusalem [alternate route]
    - He left during the days of UNLEAVENED bread - **Leviticus 23:6**
    - Which begins the DAY after the PASSOVER - fifty days before PENTECOST...
    - That gave Paul a little over a MONTH to get back in time for the FEAST!
    - There are times when we might be inconvenienced...

- We want to get on a BOAT - or a PLANE - and it gets canceled...
- Our instinct might be FRUSTRATION - but we should be GRATEFUL...
- We never know - maybe traveling on that BOAT or PLANE meant DEATH!
- The problem with making PLANS - is we never know what MIGHT happen...
- And we are wise to be FLEXIBLE - open to how the LORD is leading us...
- ELEVENTH commandment [not really] – blessed are the FLEXIBLE for they will NOT be broken!
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - The collection... vs. 4-5
  - Representatives... vs. 4-5
    - Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia - Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians.
    - Gaius of Derbe - and Timothy - and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia.
    - These men going ahead waited for us at Troas!
    - There were SEVEN men traveling with Paul...
    - SOPATER [only here] - from the city of Berea [northern Greece]
    - ARISTARCHUS [5x in NT] - from Thessalonica [grabbed in the riot] - **Acts 19:29**
    - SECUNDUS [only here] - was also from Thessalonica...
    - TIMOTHY [28x in NT] - was from the city of Lystra [region of Galatia]
    - GAIUS [5x in NT] - was from the city of Derbe [region of Galatia]
    - TYCHICUS [7x in NT] - was from the city of Ephesus...
    - TROPHIMUS [3x in NT] - was also from the city of Ephesus...
    - They were going with Paul to represent the various Gentile churches...
    - They would deliver a gift to help the church in Jerusalem - **II Corinthians 9:1-11**
    - The church in Jerusalem was NOT doing well financially...
    - This no doubt was a result of PERSECUTION...
    - And the FAMINE that had hit the whole world [not just Jerusalem] - **Acts 11:27**
    - But it might also be they were the only COMMUNAL church - **Acts 4:34**
    - They sold their possessions and gave the money to the church - share the wealth...
    - The problem was it did NOT take long before the money given was all spent...
    - Those who had possessions had already sold them - so now EVERYONE was POOR!
  - Anonymously...
    - **Romans 15:26-27** - “It pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem... For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things - their duty is also to minister to them in material things.”
    - Since the Gentiles has been blessed by the Gospel - they wanted to bless back...
    - They volunteered to put together a special offering for the saints in Jerusalem...
    - Paul had them take the collection before he arrived – **I Corinthians 16:2**
    - He wanted the giving to be done with SECRETLY - no one [even Paul] knew what others gave!
    - King Jehoash took a wooden box – with a hole cut into the top – **II Kings 12:9**
    - He set it on the side as people came into the house of the Lord...
    - The purpose of the box – let the people give anonymously to the Lord!
    - When a church passes an offering plate people tend to make a SHOW of their gift...
    - But they are NOT giving to God - they are giving for the recognition of MEN...
    - Jesus says - they have their reward - the temporary praises of others - **Matthew 6:2**
    - That is why we have a BOX – and do NOT pass an offering plate - give anonymously!
  - Balance...
    - **II Corinthians 8:12** – “Give according to what you have - not what you do not have.” [NLT]

- God does NOT want us to go hungry - so others can eat...
- We are called to be wise with how we give - do NOT give beyond what we are able to...
- If we have money - use it to BLESS others - one day they will BLESS you back...
- NOT lending money – that is NOT a blessing - that is a loan - **Romans 13:8**
- Better to simply give it if we have it – use the money for the Lord...
- Then when we have NO money - those we helped will be there to bless us back!
- **II Corinthians 8:14** – “Right now you have plenty and can help those who are in need. Later they will have plenty and can share with you when you need it.” [NLT]

■ **2<sup>ND</sup> – TEACH THE WORD... vs. 7-12**

○ 1<sup>st</sup> - First day... vs. 7

■ Sunday...

- Now on the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break bread!
- Paul spent SEVEN days in the city of TROAS on his way back to Jerusalem...
- On the FIRST [εἰς] day of the WEEK [σάββατον] - the DISCIPLES [μαθητῆς] gathered...
- Jews count WEEKS from Saturday to Saturday [Sabbath]
- Therefore the FIRST day of the week would be SUNDAY...
- For the first time here we have CHURCH mentioned on SUNDAY!
- They did this to remember the resurrection of Jesus – first day of the week – **Luke 24:1**
- That is why we consider SUNDAY – the first day of the week - to be our day of rest!

■ The Sabbath...

- **Exodus 20:9-10** – “Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work...”
- According to the LAW the Sabbath was required – FOURTH commandment - **Exodus 20:8**
- There are RELIGIOUS groups today who would say it is STILL required...
- The RELIGIOUS leaders were saying the same things in Jesus day!
- The challenge was - the Bible said you could not WORK on the Sabbath...
- But what constituted WORK – that is where the religious leaders stepped in...
- They defined what God MEANT when He said you could not work [39 Melakhot]
- According to the Rabbis - turning on a light is breaking the Sabbath...
- Refrigerators in Israel know the day - and do not turn on the light on the Sabbath...
- Yet Jesus would intentionally HEAL [work] on the Sabbath...
- In total Jesus healed SEVEN times on the Sabbath - He did it to make a point!
- **Mark 2:27** – “He said to them: The Sabbath was made for man - and not man for the Sabbath.”
- God did NOT create us to follow the SABBATH – He gave the SABBATH to us...
- It was meant to give us a day to stop chasing after the things of this LIFE...
- And remember what LIFE is really about - focus on the LORD...
- The purpose of the SABBATH is NOT found in a day - it is found in Jesus!
- **Colossians 2:16-17** – “Let no one judge you... sabbaths - which are a shadow of things to come but the substance is of Christ.”

○ 2<sup>nd</sup> - All night... vs. 7

- Paul ready to depart the next day spoke to them and continued his message until midnight!
- Paul was set to LEAVE the NEXT day [Monday]
- So he TAUGHT [imperfect] the CHURCH - and his message went [imperfect] into the NIGHT...

- Meaning it is biblical to teach LONG Bible studies - into the early hours of the morning!
- If we did NOT know how to FLY a plane...
- We would NOT want someone to give BRIEF instructions before sending us up SOLO...
- Because we know that if we make a MISTAKE - it could be FATAL...
- And anyone who offered a quick way to FLY - does not care about us - they just want our MONEY!
- **Hosea 4:6** - "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."
- Many churches today only dedicate a SHORT time to teaching the Word...
- The Sunday morning message are only FIFTEEN minutes long [convenient]
- But the teaching of the WORD is NOT meant to be a short FEEL good devotional...
- And those who offer that kind of CHURCH - do NOT care about the people...
- Because CHURCH is meant to be in DEPTH instructions to train us on how to LIVE for God!
- **II Timothy 3:16** - "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine - for reproof - for correction - for instruction in righteousness."
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Falling asleep... vs. 8-10
  - Late night... vs. 8-9
    - There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together.
    - And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus who was sinking into a deep sleep!
    - The CHURCH was gathered in the UPPER room [ὑπερῶον]
    - And there were [imperfect] many LAMPS [because it was night]
    - EUTYCHUS [fortunate] was a YOUNG who attended the Bible Study...
    - As he listened PAUL - he started [passive] to get really SLEEPY [ὑπνος]
    - It was LATE and the room was full of people [stuffy] and candles [CO<sub>2</sub>]
    - So he moved over to a WINDOW to get some fresh air to try and wake up!
    - There is a reason why we provide COFFEE [and close the windows]
  - Third story... vs. 9
    - He was overcome by sleep and as Paul continued speaking.
    - He fell down from the third story and was taken up dead!
    - It was NOT a wise choice - because as Paul KEPT teaching...
    - He sank down [passive] into a deep SLEEP [ὑπνος] - and fell out the THIRD story window...
    - The fall KILLED him - and he was taken up [indicative] DEAD [νεκρός]!
    - A stern warning NOT to fall asleep when the pastor is teaching!
    - A lot of times we get ourselves into trouble - because of where we go...
    - If we put ourselves on a ledge - there is a good chance we will fall off...
    - Better to stay away from temptation - then we will NOT worry about falling into sin!
    - **II Timothy 2:22** - "Flee also youthful lusts - but pursue righteousness."
  - Fallen... vs. 10
    - But Paul went down - fell on him - and embracing him said:

- Do not trouble yourselves for his life is in him!
- Paul immediately went down - fell on and EMBRACED Eutychus [hug]
- And said to those watching - do NOT be TROUBLED - there was still LIFE [ψυχή] in him...
- Not that he survived the FALL - God RESURRECTED him!
- **Galatians 6:1-2** - "If a man is overtaken in any trespass you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness... Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."
- When a believer FALLS into sin - and needs help - the church tends to ATTACK...
- Rather than picking them up - they instead are quick to JUDGE...
- Christians unfortunately are famous for SHOOTING their wounded...
- Or the tendency is to LEAVE those in need alone - when we should be LOVING them...
- Like Paul we should be rushing in to give them a HUG!
- **John 13:35** - "All will know you are My disciples if you have love for one another."

○ 4<sup>th</sup> - Keep preaching... vs. 11-12

- Now when [Paul] had come up - had broken bread and eaten.
- And talked a long while - even till daybreak - he departed.
- And they brought the young man in alive - and they were not a little comforted!
- Paul [nominative] came back up to the THIRD story and had some food [recharge]
- Then he [nominative] continued to SPEAK all the way until MORNING [day break]
- Paul LEFT - and they brought Eutychus back in ALIVE and were COMFORTED [παρακαλέω]
- This is the ONLY time in the Bible we read about Paul raising the DEAD...
- Yet Paul did NOT focus on the MIRACLE - his focus remained on the WORD!
- We expect MIRACLES when God is the one who is working...
- But our FOCUS is not on the MIRACLE - it is on the God who is WORKING...
- We come back to His WORD - because that is how we get to know God - **Romans 10:17**

▪ 3<sup>RD</sup> - TIME WITH JESUS... vs. 13-16

○ 1<sup>st</sup> - Long way... vs. 13-15

- On foot... vs. 13
- Then we went ahead to the ship and sailed to Assos there intending to take Paul on board.
- For so he had given orders - intending himself to go on foot!
- When Paul left Troas - he did NOT take the boat...
- Instead he chose to WALK the 40km from Troas to the port city of Assos...
- Paul was on a TIGHT schedule [one month] he did NOT have a lot of time to spare...
- But he knew how important it was to get some time alone with God...
- So he used the walk to be able to spend some time in prayer - hear from the Lord!
- It is incredibly important to get time alone with GOD...
- Even Jesus took time to get alone with FATHER and pray!
- **Matthew 14:23** - "[Jesus] went up on the mountain by Himself to pray."
- We get so distracted in our daily lives: work - family - food - sleep...
- It leaves us with very little time to just listen to the Lord...
- We have to MAKE time - to get alone and hear from God...

- If we have NOT heard from Jesus recently – God is NOT silent – we just too BUSY!
- By boat... vs. 14-15
  - And when he met us at Assos we took him on board and came to Mitylene.
  - We sailed from there and the next day came opposite Chios.
  - The following day we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium.
  - The next day we came to Miletus!
  - Paul joined up with the rest of his party in ASSOS - and came on board the BOAT...
  - They then began to Island hop down the west coast of Asia minor [Turkey]
  - From Mitylene [on the Island of Lesbos] - to Chios [an Island]
  - To Samos [an island] - and stayed opposite in the coastal town of Trogyllium...
  - Finally arriving at Miletus - a town about 60km south of Ephesus!
  - The path that Paul took was a well know commercial route...
  - A detail that Luke added to the book of Acts helps give us confidence...
  - This is not just a STORY - it is the TESTIMONY of real events!
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Limited time... vs. 16
  - For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia.
  - For he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem - if possible - on the Day of Pentecost!
  - Paul did NOT return to Ephesus on the way to Jerusalem...
  - He was determined to get to Jerusalem in time for the feast of PENTECOST...
  - But time was SHORT - the chance of Paul getting to Jerusalem in time was SLIM...
  - IF possible – SECOND class condition [TR] - or FOURTH class condition [MGNT]
  - But even with a slim possibility – Paul was still determined to try!
  - Often as Christian we do not try – because there is a slim chance it will work...
  - When Noah built the Ark – there was a slim chance it would float...
  - When Moses struck the Red Sea – there was a slim chance it would part...
  - When David ran out to attack Goliath – there was a slim chance he would live!
  - Just because there is a slim chance something is possible – is not reason not to try...
  - God is looking for people who are willing to step out and believe in slim chances...
  - After all – we serve the God of the impossible!