



Title | Paul's Farewell Message
Text | Acts 20:18-24
By | Todd Mathis
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Sermon Notes

Acts 20:18–24 (ESV)

¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, ¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; ²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. ²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24

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For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Are you close enough to friends in the church community where you could learn from others? If the answer is “no,” how can you get to know others more? Do you dismiss this opportunity to grow by others’ example, or can you embrace it as an opportunity that God has placed in your life to deepen your faith and grow in Christ? (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:6; 2:14)

Tuesday:

This is challenging to consider, but could we make the case before others that we were consistently with them and exhibited all humility? Is Craig Glickman’s quote helpful to contemplate: “Humility is not thinking less of yourself than you are. Nor is humility always talking about your faults and shortcomings as compared with everyone else’s superiority and achievements. Humility is simply a recognition of the truth about ourselves; and then most often, a forgetfulness of self that allows genuine concern for others and a genuine worship of God.” (Acts 20:18-19; Matthew 11:29; Philippians 2:3-4)

Wednesday:

It’s hard to see God at work in our trials. Encountering difficult circumstances is a part of the maturation process, one that involves enduring suffering and becoming more like Christ. Can you reflect on the challenging circumstances you are going through and reframe them as a growth opportunity to strengthen your soul and comfort others in their difficulties? (Acts 20:18-19; 14:8-23; 2 Corinthians 1:3-11)

Thursday:

To what extent are you willing to set aside personal ambitions or comforts for the sake of your faith? (Acts 20:24)

Friday:

Sharing our faith is better viewed as part of a process rather than a sales pitch to close a deal. Are there people in your life that you can : (1) prepare the soil of their heart by graceful words; (2) sow a seed of truth with more definitive statements about Jesus; (3) cultivate their hearts by responding to questions or bringing others along; or (4) we may even reap the harvest. Can you consider and pray about individuals that you encounter each day? (Acts 20:24)

Daily Prayer:

Lord, I thank you that you do not leave us where we are, but you help us to grow in knowing Christ daily. Help me to see your grace in each circumstance and to walk with Jesus daily. I pray this in Christ’s name, Amen.

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