

Acts 20:1-5

Three (3) Things to learn from this passage:

1. *Paul had a Mission to Express His Appreciation to the Jerusalem Church...a Church that was in need at that time. (Acts 19:21,22)*
 - *He wanted to take a collection from all the Gentile Churches and send to Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16; II Cor. 9; Romans 15:25-27).....Why?*
 - ⇒ *He felt that they owed this to the 1st church*
 - ⇒ *To emphasize the unity of the Church*
 - ⇒ *To teach them (the Gentiles) practical Christian Charity.*
 - *He wanted to support the Jerusalem Church when they were hurting....not just in financial matters, but physical concern.....He wanted to be there because they were being persecuted physically, mentally and emotionally.*
2. *The Jews in Gentile territory were out to get Paul. They were ready to throw Paul overboard at the first chance they had while Paul was sailing from Greece to Syria. Paul found out about the plot.*
3. *People were willing to provide Security for Paul...not just in prayer, but actually provide body guards to protect him. Luke was part of the group that went with Paul, v.5 and 6. Therefore, Luke was willing to risk his life to provide support for the Jews in Jerusalem.*

Acts 20:7-12

Five (5) things to learn from this lesson:

1. *Don't sit on the window sill with the window open when you have just eaten and you are tired and sleepy.*
2. *Leaning on Jesus is better than leaning on the window sill.*
3. *Paul was a typical preacher...when you are preaching, some fall asleep no matter what kind of preacher you are.*
4. *This picture is a picture much like what we found with Jesus and Lazarus...only Paul touched and spoke. Jesus just spoke and Lazarus was healed.*
5. *You don't have to be at Church to preach the Gospel...*

Acts 20:13-16

Paul continues on his trip to Jerusalem...Luke is Paul's companion. Paul is in a hurry to get to Jerusalem...He wanted to be there for Passover. Paul might have his own people hating him...but he had love for the feasts and his people. Agape love....unconditional love. Love for your enemies...and those that would do evil to you.

Acts 20:17-38

Paul's Farewell speech at Miletus...when leaving for Jerusalem. Paul makes certain claims for himself:

- *He had spoken fearlessly.*
- *He had lived independently*
- *He had faced the future gallantly*

Paul urges certain claims for his friends:

- *He reminded them of their duty*
- *He reminded them of their danger*

Through all this scene runs the dominant feeling of an affection as deep as the heart itself. That feeling should be in every church.

When love dies in any church the work of Christ cannot be successful (in an atmosphere like that). Only the Holy Spirit can revive the church....and that has to come when hearts of the people learn to love people.

We need to be going about the Lord's work with diligence and a willingness to stand for truth....no matter what the cost.

Questions for the Church...

1. *Are we generous to the poor?*
2. *Are we willing to pray for Jerusalem...our heritage?*
3. *How can we know what is sound teaching?*
4. *Who should we trust?*
5. *Do congregations demand too much?*