



## Acts

### Lesson 19, Chapter 20

*Paul's third missionary journey began in Ephesus where his second journey had ended. Because Ephesus was so accessible to the whole province of Asia, the gospel spread quickly from there. As usual there were those in Ephesus who received the message warmly, but also many who adamantly opposed it. After nearly setting off a large scale riot in Ephesus, in Chapter 20 Paul sets out for Macedonia on his way to Jerusalem to deliver the gifts that had been collected for the poor there. He and his companions were headed through Greece when they heard of a plot to try to kill him so they decided to go through Macedonia instead. After passing through Philippi, they sailed on to Troas and then continued down the coast of Asia Minor stopping at several cities along the way.*

*Instead of stopping again in Ephesus, Paul had the elders of the city meet him at Miletus. He had received warnings about what awaited him in Jerusalem, and the leaders were deeply saddened by his departure knowing they would probably never see him again. They were well aware of the animosity the Jews in Jerusalem felt toward Paul and the dangerous position he was in. Paul's departing words to them undoubtedly bolstered their courage, "But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24*

#### READ CHAPTER 20

1. *Why had the gospel caused an uproar in Ephesus? Acts 19:25-28*
  
2. *How does Paul figuratively describe this time in Ephesus later in 1 Corinthians 15:31-32? What point is he trying to make by his statements?*
  
3. *What cities would Paul probably go through if he was returning through Macedonia and Greece? See the map and Acts 16:9-12 and 18:1-8. Why would it be important to him to go to these cities?*



*There were probably several reasons that Paul had many companions with him on this part of his travels. First, he was delivering the financial aide to the poor in Judea that he had collected from the churches where he had preached. Each of the men he traveled with were probably representatives of those churches that had given the money. Second, because of the many threats to his life and because of the sum of money he was carrying, extra protection was wise. Thirdly, these were men that had significant ministries in the regions Paul had traveled, and he was continuing to train them to teach others. Fourth, they had been given to Paul as a gift from God to serve him in his work of the ministry. Many of them were helpers to Paul to fulfill his call to the Lord*

4. *List the men that were with Paul (20:4), and from the verses given, explain some of their ministry to him. Acts 27:2; Colossians 4:7-8, 10; Philemon 1:23-24; 2 Timothy 4:12, 20; Ephesians 6:21-22; Titus 3:12.*
  
5. *What has God called you to do for His Kingdom, and what people has He put in your life to help you do it?*
  
6. *Describe the significant event that took place in Troas. 20:5-12*
  
7. *Find the cities in Acts 20:13-17 that Paul traveled through and mark them on your map.*
  
8. *How did Paul get to Assos from Troas? 20:13. Why do you think he didn't go on the ship?*
  
9. *Why did Paul avoid going to Ephesus himself, and what did he do instead? 20:16-17*



*In Acts 20:18-35, Paul recounts his ministry efforts to the leaders from Ephesus. This was a common practice when you were saying good-bye to those you possibly would never see again. Paul was bearing witness to the integrity of his life and faithfulness to his call (vs.26) as well as giving them an example to follow through his testimony (vs. 35).*

10. *What warning does Paul give concerning what will take place after he leaves? Vs.29 What does he do for them in vs. 32 because of that warning?*

11. *God was making it clear to Paul that going to Jerusalem would bring tribulation and suffering for him. Why didn't that matter to him, and what can you learn from his attitude that you can apply to situations in your life today? 20:22-24.*

***Prayer requests:***

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***Group time notes:***

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