



# WORK OF THE SPIRIT

## Acts Chapter 20

Lesson 17

### FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. How have you been inspired by the work of the Spirit from Acts 19?
2. We cannot know the specific details about our future or the future of those we love. With our human limitations we cannot protect, remain with, or establish others in the faith. However, we can leave them with a godly example, the power of the Gospel, and *commend* them to the *word of His grace, which is able to build them up and give them an inheritance among all those who are sanctified*. God is able to do what we can't. Paul proclaimed in 2 Timothy 1:12b that *God is able to keep what I have committed unto Him*.

Paul lived this truth out! Acts 20 records Paul's farewell to a few of the churches he had founded. When Paul said his goodbyes, he could not be certain of his own future or the future of these fellowships. However, Paul could be sure of the power of the Gospel and the fortifying strength of the Word of God's grace. Take heart as you study Acts 20; God is able to do what you cannot do. Record one thought from each section that leaves an impression with you:

- a. Acts 20:1-16
  - b. Acts 20:17-24
  - c. Acts 20:25-31
  - d. Acts 20:32-38
3. Use the Scripture below as a catalyst to pray for your study this week. Write your prayer here.

*But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself,  
so that I may finish my race with joy.*

Acts 20:24a

**SECOND DAY:** Read Acts 20:1-16

1. According to Acts 20:1-2, what did Paul do following the *uproar* in Ephesus?
  - a. How do you think Paul's actions would have comforted the believers?
  
2. Use Acts 20:3-5 to briefly outline Paul's travel plans.
  - a. Notice all the different places Paul's companions came from. What does this convey to you about Paul's ministry?
  
3. *These men* went ahead of Paul to Troas. Meanwhile, Paul waited until *after the Days of Unleavened Bread* and *joined them* five days later. They then *stayed seven days* (Acts 20:5-6). What took place *on the first day of the week* as Paul prepared to *depart* from Troas? Acts 20:7
  
4. Answer the following questions from Acts 20:8-12:
  - a. What happened to Eutychus? Acts 20:8-9
  
  - b. How did Paul react to this crisis? Acts 20:10
  
  - c. What did they do *when he had come up*? Acts 20:11
    - (1) Why is this remarkable?
  
  - d. Why do you suppose the disciples were comforted? Acts 20:12
  
  - e. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in this crisis?
  
5. Note that Paul ordered his companions to go ahead by ship. Why do you think he wanted to go by foot? Acts 20:13
  
6. Acts 20:14-15 lists the ports Paul's ship docked at. According to Acts 20:16, why had Paul *decided to sail past Ephesus*?
  
7. How do you see the Holy Spirit at work in Paul's travel plans?
  - a. How does this minister to you about your own plans?

**THIRD DAY:** Read Acts 20:17-24

1. Since he did not have time to stop in Ephesus, what did Paul do? Acts 20:17
2. *When they had come*, Paul began to share with the Ephesian *elders*. Use Acts 20:18-21 to comment on Paul's testimony *among* them:
  - a. his *manner* – Acts 20:18-19
  - b. his ministry – Acts 20:20
  - c. his message – Acts 20:21
3. According to Acts 20:22a, what did Paul want them to *see*?
4. What did Paul *not* know? Acts 20:22b
  - a. However, what **did** he know? Acts 20:23
    - (1) Who testified to him of this?
    - (2) Why would they find this comforting?
5. What was Paul's perspective about the things that would *await* him? Acts 20:24a
  - a. From Acts 20:24b complete the phrases below to grasp the mindset of Paul:
    - (1) *nor do I*
    - (2) *so that I*
    - (3) *ministry which I*
    - (4) *to testify of*
  - b. Choose an aspect of Paul's mindset and share how it speaks to you.
6. How does Paul's perspective minister to you concerning:
  - a. tribulations
  - b. ministry

**FOURTH DAY:** Read Acts 20:25–31

1. According to Acts 20:25, what did Paul *know*?
2. What did Paul *testify*? Acts 20:26
  - a. According to Acts 20:27, what had Paul done to be able to *testify* in this way?
    - (1) Why do you think this was a necessary component of Paul's ministry?
3. Use Acts 20:28 answer the following questions:
  - a. What were the elders to *take heed to*? Acts 20:28a
    - (1) Why was this essential?
  - b. Who had *made* these elders *overseers*? Acts 20:28b
    - (1) What does this convey about their responsibility and authority?
  - c. What were these *overseers* to do? Acts 20:28c
    - (1) Link this with 1 Peter 5:1–4 and share your thoughts.
  - d. What did Paul declare about the *church of God* in Acts 20:28d?
    - (1) Why would this be important for the *overseers* to keep in mind?
4. According to Acts 20:29–30, what was Paul's greatest concern from:
  - a. without – Acts 20:29
  - b. within – Acts 20:30
    - (1) What was Paul's opinion of those who would *draw away disciples after themselves*?
5. In light of Paul's concerns, what had he done for *three years*? Acts 20:31
6. Considering what you have studied today, why is it important to pray for the church?

**FIFTH DAY:** Read Acts 20:32–38

1. The word *commend* means *to entrust* or *commit to one's charge*. From Acts 20:32a cite and comment on who and what Paul commended the *brethren* to:
  - a.
  - b.
    - (1) According to Acts 20:32b, what is this *able* to do?
    - (2) Why is entrusting to God superior to entrusting to men?
2. From Acts 20:33–34 record your observations concerning Paul's example among the Ephesians.
  - a. Link this with 1 Thessalonians 2:5–10 to remark further on Paul's testimony.
3. What was the example Paul desired to set? Acts 20:35a
  - a. Consider Paul's example as you print the *words of the Lord Jesus* from Acts 20:35b.
    - (1) Share a way you have experienced the truth of this statement.
4. *When he had said these things*, what did Paul do? Acts 20:36
  - a. Why do you think this was the right thing to do?
5. Use Acts 20:37–38 to remark on the relationship Paul had with the Ephesian elders.
  - a. What does this convey to you about Paul's behavior among them?
6. How is Paul an example for you?

