

## Notes for Acts - Chapter 22: "The Difficult Witness" (Page 1 of 3)

### A Summary of Chapter 22:

- End of Chapter 21: Paul is spotted in the Temple area and arrested.
    1. He is accused of bringing Gentiles in the enclosed area of the Temple- this is forbidden.
    2. A riot occurs as people try to grab Paul. The riot noise brings others to Temple area.
    3. Paul is arrested by Roman guards, partially for his own protection.
    4. Paul asks to speak to the crowd in his own defense.
    5. Chapter 22 is the text of that defense.
  - Verses 7-12: Paul preaches one "all-nighter" sermon in the town of Troas.
    1. He preached from evening until morning!
    2. The speech itself is not recorded.
    3. Miracle: A young man named Eutychus 1) fell asleep in the sermon 2) fell from 3<sup>rd</sup> floor window (or balcony) 3) was dead. 4) Paul prayed and he came back to life.
  - Verses 13-16: More "travel-journeys". The author mentions several port-towns they crossed.
    1. The trip goes from Troas to Miletus. Paul is traveling south again.
    2. Verses 1-6 are mostly land travel. Verses 13-16 are sea travel.
  - Verses 17-38: Paul's farewell speech to the Ephesian elders. The speech is from the town of Miletus.
    1. Miletus is not far from the City of Ephesus. Paul sent for the elders to come to Miletus.
    2. Paul spent 2½ -3 years based in Ephesus. Many home-churches were established.
    3. This is the first recorded "pastor's conference"!
    4. Paul gives his personal testimony of his time in Ephesus.
    5. Paul gives warnings of false teachers, both from inside and outside the church.
    6. The "big goodbye". Verse 1 of Chapter 21, Paul sails on town of Cos.
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### Introduction - Who are the toughest people to convince about Jesus?

- 1. The people you know the best.
- 2. Those who are deeply engrained in "religion".
- Verses 17-37 are all one-speech given by Paul to the Ephesian elders.
- We have a mention of "gathering on the first day of the week", which is Sunday.
  - This verse is one of the supporting verses for Sunday worship.
  - It is associated with the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week (Sunday), when Jesus rose from the dead.

### Verses 1-3 Paul travels through Macedonia and Greece for 3 months.

- "Uproar" refers to the riot in Ephesus in Chapter 19 ("great is the goddess Artemus" speech).
- We learn from Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> letter to the Corinthians that Paul was looking for Titus.
  - "I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-by to them and went on to Macedonia." (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 2:13, NIV). He found Titus (2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 7:6)
  - It simply shows that Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to the Corinthians was written during this time period.
- The Book of Romans was probably also written around this time period (Rom. 15:25).
- Luke describes Paul as "the encourager" two times in two verses.
  - Remember the importance of encouraging fellow believers.
  - "For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory. (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 2:11-12, NIV).
- Paul "back-tracks" through Macedonia. He travels by land instead of by sea with his companions.
  - The ship was leaving for Syria, which is near Israel.
  - The ship was probably full of Jewish people heading to Jerusalem for the Passover.
  - Many of Paul's enemies may have been aboard. There may have been a plot to kill Paul on the open sea. Thus, Paul changed his mind, and "walked".

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### Verse 4: Paul's travel companions:

- Each person listed is from a different town.
- We learn from Romans that Paul was carrying a money-collection for the Jerusalem church.
  - "For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem (Romans 5:26, NIV).
  - There may have been a famine in Israel at this time. (See Acts 11:28)
  - Paul was working on building relationship between the Gentile churches & Jerusalem-Jewish church.
- These young men were "missionaries in training" under Paul.

### Verse 6: Paul celebrates the Jewish holiday "Feast of Unleavened Bread" in Philippi.

- The "Feast of Unleavened Bread" is a collective name for the 3 Jewish holidays, including Passover.
- Many Jewish-Christians use this verse as support for honoring these Jewish holidays.
  - Paul, others never expected Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians to honor these holidays.

### Verses 7-13: Paul preaches one "all-nighter" sermon in the town of Troas.

- Mention of church gathering on "first day of the week", or Sunday.
- Eutyclus sat in the back, fell asleep, died and was revived via Paul's prayer.
  - "Are you in the back, barely paying attention, or in the front attentively listening? No matter what our level of commitment, God still loves and cares for us. (Jon Curson, paraphrased)
- Liberal-commentators argue that Eutyclus was just unconscious.
  - Luke, a doctor, knows "dead" when he sees it. ☺ The original Greek text says "dead".
- After the miracle, the group had communion.
- Paul probably preached on all the major doctrines of Christianity during this time.
- The Holy Spirit "helped" people keep their attention during the long speech.
  - And my preaching was very plain, not with a lot of oratory and human wisdom, but the Holy Spirit's power was in my words, proving to those who heard them that the message was from God. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:4, The Living Bible)

### Verses 13-16: More "travel-journeys". The author mentions several port-towns they crossed.

- Paul choose to walk instead of sail from Troas to Assos.
  - Paul may have wanted to spend time alone in prayer. Nothing like a good long walk prayer!

### Verses 17-38: Paul's farewell speech to the Ephesian elders. The speech is from the town of Miletus

- Paul had a "runner" send for the elders. Paul didn't want to stay a long time.
- Verse 19: Paul opened with a self-testimony: "served you with humility and tears".
  - Paul was not saying this to brag. To paraphrase Paul: "I'm not just preaching it, I *live* it!"
  - Serving "with tears" is not just compassion but knowing the effects of sin in our lives.
- Verse 19: Paul emphasizes the importance of "Serving The Lord".
  - People let you down, even when you want to help them.
  - We focus on God, not on them! That is how we serve the Lord, by ministering to others.
- Verse 20: Paul preaches that all must to God through Jesus for salvation - No exceptions!
- Verse 20: Paul preached from "house to house". No audience was too big or too small for Paul!
- Verse 22: Paul warns that the Spirit warns him that "prisons & hardships" await him.
  - That does not discourage Paul from what God called him to do. It shouldn't stop us either!

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### Verses 22-38: Paul's farewell speech to the Ephesian elders (cont.)

- How do we discern God's will? 1) Systematic reading of Bible, not just favorite verses; 2) prayer, often the things we "feel" like doing are given to us by God. Ask God "bless it or block it". The will of God will never violate God's word.
- Verse 24: Paul says he "wants to complete the task God has given him".
  - There is a good prayer for us: Lord, what task(s) do you desire for me today?
  - This verse is a good model for happiness. People and material things will never satisfy you in the end. Seeking and doing God's will for your life is how one achieves joy & happiness.
- Verse 24: Paul says "my life means nothing to me". It is not about being depressed. It is about living a life for God. God is not looking for ability, God is looking for availability.
- Verse 26: Paul says, "I have not failed to teach "the whole will of God"".
  - That should be the desire of every pastor, teacher and parent.
  - To Paul it meant covering all the Christian doctrines.
  - A "safe-way" for us to know we're teaching the "whole will" is to cover the *entire* Bible.
- Verse 28-29: Watch out for false-teaches both inside and outside the church.
  - The most vulnerable: Those who are weak in Bible knowledge.
  - The importance of praying daily for our pastors and teachers.
    - References: 1 Thessalonians 5:25, 2 Thessalonians 3:1, Hebrews 13:17-18).
- Verse 28: Good verse to show Jehovah Witnesses/Mormons: "which he bought with his own blood". The "he" refers to the last noun, which is God-the-Father in that verse.
  - It supports the doctrine that Jesus is God, which the Jehovah Witnesses & Mormons deny.
- Verse 32: "I commit you to God". There is a time for all students to become leaders themselves.
  - "In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again! (Hebrews 5:12a NIV)
- Verse 35: Paul quotes Jesus saying, "It is more blessed to give than receive".
  - This verse is not anywhere in the 4 Gospels? Direct revelation from Jesus?
  - It may be a paraphrase of Luke 6:38

