

NONE OF THESE THINGS MOVE ME

ACTS 20

Text:

Introduction:

In the later part of Acts 19 when Paul was preparing to leave for Macedonia, Demetrius a silver smith who made his living from selling miniature silver images of the goddess Diana provoke the people which resulted in a riot among the Ephesians.

The cause is the same that causes people to riot and fight today.

Wealth, Worship, and Wickedness

Acts 19:24-27

²⁴For a certain *man* named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; ²⁵Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. ²⁶Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: ²⁷So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth.

Paul's , preaching had caused the silversmith's revenues to dry up, because those who that were saved had stopped worshipping idols to serve the True and Living God.

Paul decided to head back to Macedonia and Achaia because he wanted to encourage and strengthen the Christians and churches that had been established.

After visiting the Macedonia churches (Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea), he then made his way to Greece or Achaia where he stayed three months.

When Paul was ready to leave Achaia he preached a farewell message.

Acts 20:7

⁷ And upon the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.

I think that it's important to not when it was that they were meeting; "The First Day of the Week."

This shows it had become the established custom of the early church to gather for formal worship on the first day of the week.

1 Corinthians 16:2

² Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as *God* hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

This was a transition period from Judaism to Christianity, from the worshipping on the Sabbath to the first day of the week.

While preaching this message Eutychus was sitting in an open window, fell asleep and fell to his death.

However God restored his life.

On the next day Paul departs and eventually arrived in Miletus, a city about thirty miles from Ephesus.

He sent for the elders of the church in Ephesus to share with them what God had done and had put in his heart.

1. REVIEWED HIS PAST FAITHFULNESS (ACTS 20:17-21)

A. His Manner of Life (vs. 18, 19)

Acts 20:18-19

¹⁸ And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons, ¹⁹ Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

Paul tells them that he had been consistent before them in the good times and the bad times.

1. Humble service – humility of mind

See: Philippians 2:5-11

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Hardship and Suffering – many tears and temptations

See: 2 Cor 11:23-28

2 Corinthians 11:23-28

²³ Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. ²⁴ Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one. ²⁵ Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; ²⁶ *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren; ²⁷ In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. ²⁸ Beside those things that are

without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

B. His Method in Life (vs. 20)

Acts 20:20

²⁰ *And* how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

1. Taught publicly

2. Taught privately – house to house

- He taught them about the believer's wealth

Ephesians 1:3-13

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: ⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. ⁷ In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; ⁸ Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; ⁹ Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: ¹⁰ That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him: ¹¹ In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: ¹² That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. ¹³ In whom ye

also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

- He taught them about the believer's walk

Ephesians 4:1

¹ I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

Ephesians 5:1-2

¹ Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; ² And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Ephesians 5:8

⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

- He taught them about the believer's warfare

Ephesians 6:10-12

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places*.

C. His Message in Life (vs. 21)

Acts 20:21

²¹ Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Repentance Toward God

A change of mind about who God is and your relationship to Him

Repentance is turning to God

It's a change of mind that leads to a change of behavior

2. Faith Towards the Lord Jesus Christ

Believing or trusting in the work of Christ for salvation.

2. REVEALED HIS PRESENT FEELINGS (ACTS 20:22-27)

A. He Was Burdened (for the Jews, Jerusalem, and Gentiles)

Paul desired to go to Jerusalem

He asked the Christians at Rome to pray with and for him as he would soon go to Jerusalem so that he would be delivered from the unbelieving Jews there.

Romans 15:30-31

³⁰ Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me; ³¹ That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which *I have* for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

B. He Was Bound (in the spirit)

Acts 20:22-23

²² And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: ²³ Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

He felt knitted or tied up. He didn't know what would happen when he went to Jerusalem, but had been warned that bonds and afflictions awaited him.

C. He Was Bent (none of these things move me)

Acts 20:24

²⁴ But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

D. He Was Blameless (vs. 25-27)

Acts 20:25-27

²⁵ And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. ²⁶ Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the blood of all *men*. ²⁷ For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

3. REMINDED THEM TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE (ACTS 20:28-38)

Acts 20:28-38

²⁸ Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. ²⁹ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. ³² And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. ³³ I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. ³⁴ Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. ³⁵ I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. ³⁶ And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. ³⁷ And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul's neck, and kissed him, ³⁸ Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.

A. Take Heed

1. To yourselves

2. To the flock of God

B. Feed

C. Lead (vs. 29-30)

Acts 20:29-30

²⁹ For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. ³⁰ Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

1. Attacks from without (29) – grievous wolves
2. Attacks from within (30) – from your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things