

IN THE EARLIEST CHURCH

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Acts 20:17-38

¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them:

Acts 20:17-38

“You yourselves know how I lived among you
the whole time from the first day that
I set foot in Asia,

Acts 20:17-38

¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;

Acts 20:17-38

²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

Acts 20:17-38

²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 20:17-38

²² And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem,
constrained by the Spirit, not knowing
what will happen to me there,

Acts 20:17-38

²³ except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me
in every city that imprisonment
and afflictions await me.

Acts 20:17-38

²⁴ But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:17-38

²⁵ And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again.

Acts 20:17-38

²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Acts 20:17-38

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Acts 20:17-38

²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

Acts 20:17-38

³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Acts 20:17-38

³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

Acts 20:17-38

³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Acts 20:17-38

³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.

Acts 20:17-38

³⁵ In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said,

Acts 20:17-38

‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

³⁶ And when he had said these things,
he knelt down and prayed with them all.

Acts 20:17-38

³⁷ And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him,
³⁸ being sorrowful most of all

Acts 20:17-38

because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

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The importance of tears

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The necessity of the message
for both hearer and speaker

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The compatibility of service


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The purpose of life

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The Main Thing