

How to Read the Bible for All its Worth

Lesson 6h: Acts 18.23 – 21.17 – Paul’s Third Missionary Journey

Introduction

Paul’s third journey began with a desire to return and strengthen the churches that were established during his first and second journeys. This journey actually takes place over several years, with two of those years being at one place. During this time, Paul does not establish many new churches besides the one in Ephesus; however the details conveyed in the narrative teach us a lot about the type of man that Paul was and the burden that he carried in his ministry.

Acts 18:23-28 – *Apollos*

What do we learn about Apollos in verses 24 and 25?



Who were Priscilla and Aquilla and why did they take Apollos aside?

What did it mean that Apollos was only familiar with John’s baptism? How did this tie into his inadequacy of knowledge concerning the way of Christ? (See also John 1:29-33, John 3:22-25, Matthew 9:14-15, Luke 9:49-50)

Did Apollos have a successful ministry in Corinth? (See also 1 Corinthians 3:4-6)

Acts 19:1-7 – Paul encounters some disciples in Ephesus

During Paul’s travel through Galatia, he would have visited the churches established during his first missionary journey in Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, and Pisidian Antioch. His travels eventually led him to Ephesus, where he finished out his second missionary journey. Before leaving to fulfill his vow in Jerusalem, he promised to return and finish the work he started there. When he came to Ephesus, he happened upon another group of disciples.

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What did Paul mean when he asked them about whether they had received the Holy Spirit when they believed? (See also Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16)

Why did Paul rebaptize these men?

Why did Paul lay hands on them for them to receive the Holy Spirit?

Acts 19:8-20 – Paul's ministry in Ephesus

At what point did Paul leave the synagogue and take his teaching elsewhere?

How was it that all of Asia was able to hear the gospel even though Paul stayed in one place?

Why was God doing such miraculous signs through Paul?

Why were the seven sons of Sceva unable to cast out the demon, even though they tried to cast it out in the name of Jesus Christ?

What affect did the magnification of Christ have upon those who were believers?

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Acts 19:21-22 – Paul's burden

Sometimes the Lord allows us to see where He is going to take us to prepare us for the work ahead. However, He rarely shows us how He is going to get us there. It is a test of faith for us to believe the vision God has given to us along the road of trials between today and the point of fulfillment. This is what we begin to see with Paul in this passage

What was Paul's burden for his future?

What did Paul do while he tarried in Ephesus? (See 1 Corinthians 16:1-9, 19)

Why did Paul send Timothy and Erastus on to Macedonia?

Acts 19:23-41 – Riot in Ephesus

Ephesus was the site of the Temple of Artemis (Diana), one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. Not only were the Ephesians worshippers of Artemis, but all of Asia and even many parts of the ancient world. There were 36 shrines of Artemis throughout the Roman Empire with the temple at Ephesus being the preeminent worship spot. Every year, thousands of people would flock to the temple and bring business to the city of Ephesus, especially the local idol makers, who would sell the little idols to the travelers to take home or to place as votives in the temple.

Who was the main culprit in starting the riot and what was his motivation?

Who stopped Paul from going to the stadium?

What does the description of the crowd at the stadium tell us about these people?

Why did the crowd reject Alexander, who stood up on behalf of the Jews?

The town clerk was the city's chief administrative officer (like a modern day mayor) and was a liaison between the city counsel and Roman authorities. He would be held responsible for the uprising by Rome and therefore it was his responsibility to calm everything down. What was his response to the uprising and the charges being brought by Demetrius?

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Acts 20:1-12 – *Travel plans thwarted and why you shouldn't sleep in Church*

What caused Paul to cancel his direct sail from Greece back to Syria?

Why did Paul preach so long and why were they so patient to listen to him?

Why do you think the Lord allowed this miracle to happen?

Acts 20:13-38 – *Paul's farewell address to the Ephesian elders*

Why did Paul want to avoid going to Ephesus but instead called for the elders to meet him in Miletus? (vs 16-17)

How did Paul describe his ministry to the Ephesians? (vs 18-21)

What does Paul mean when he said he was, "bound in the Spirit"? How had God communicated to him what would happen in Jerusalem? How does this scenario relate to Paul's desires that he expressed in Philipians 3:8-10? (vs 22-25)

Did Paul hold back in his preaching to the Ephesians? (vs 26-27)

What does Paul say about the calling of the elders in Ephesus and their job description? (vs 28)

What does Paul warn the Ephesians that would soon happen? (vs 29-31)

What is Paul doing in this farewell address? (vs 32-35)

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Acts 21:1-6 – *Journey to Tyre*

Why did the Lord keep revealing Paul's future through the prophets at each church he visited?

Acts 21:7-17 – *Journey to Jerusalem*

Apparently, Philip settled in Caesarea after his missionary journey through Samaria and the surrounding area. We last saw him in Caesarea in Acts 8:40

What does it mean that Philip was one of the seven? (see Acts 6:3-6)

How did Paul respond to their pleas for him to avoid Jerusalem?

After Paul explained his willingness to suffer and even die for Christ, what was the response of the disciples?

Assignment:

Read Acts 21:18 – 24:27 in preparation for the next lesson