

# **Unstuck: How the Apostle Paul Changed the World**

Lesson 6

Acts 20:17-38

December 26, 2021

## **Completing the Task**

### **Introduction**

Humility is defined as putting the needs of others above your own or sacrificing your self-interest to care for others. Jesus, with His crucifixion, performed the ultimate act of humility. This was His mindset and should be ours as well.

Paul's message is one of humility and self-sacrifice. Sitting in a room with church leaders, he tearfully shares his experiences and uses these experiences as an example of how these leaders should live. Through his tears, he reveals the depth of his love, compassion, and desire for the church's success in Ephesus.

Paul's message continues to be applicable today. His call for leaders to practice humility, lead by example, proclaim God's word, and be on guard against that which could hamper our purpose as followers of God is as true today as it was when he delivered it in Ephesus.

***Memory verse: "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace."—Acts 20:24***

Pray and read Acts 20:17-38. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

## **What does the passage say?**

1. For who did Paul send? Where did Paul ask them to go? (Acts 20:17)
2. How did Paul say he lived? (Acts 20:19-20)
3. What did Paul declare to both Jews and Gentiles? (Acts 20:21)
4. About what has the Holy Spirit compelled Paul to do and warned him? (Acts 20:22-23)
5. What is Paul's only aim? (Acts 20:24)
6. About what does Paul warn the leaders of the church? (Acts 20:28-31)
7. What does Paul demonstrate with his own life? (Acts 20:34-35)
8. What does Paul commission the church leaders to do? (Acts 20:32)

9. What is their response? (Acts 20:32, 36-38)

### **What does the passage mean?**

1. Paul tells the leaders at Ephesus that they should “Be shepherds of the church of God” (Acts 20:28). What are we directed to do as “shepherds of the church of God?” (Mark 10:45; 1 Corinthians 4:1; Ephesians 4:1-3; 1 Peter 4:10)
  
2. As servants to God, what must we realize about God’s desires for our lives? (Proverbs 3:5-6; Luke 9:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Hebrews 10:36)
  
3. What do we need to understand about following Jesus? (Acts 14:22; Philippians 4:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 3:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:12; James 1:17-18)

4. Why is it important that Christians root themselves so carefully in the gospel? (Matthew 10:16; Acts 20:29; 1 Timothy 4:1-3, 6:3-5; Jude 3-5)

### **Applying the passage**

1. Do you see following Christ as a full-time life or as a few times a week commitment? Explain.

