

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on March 21, 2021:**

**"Transformation of the Early Church Series on  
The Book of Acts – Paul's Final Journey to Jerusalem  
(Acts 20:1-21:17) (Part 20)"**

**[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman on Zoom shows us how Paul modeled team ministry with his fellow Christians and also displayed a heart to encourage others which is a powerful example for us today.]**

Introduction:

- Pastor Craig has been here now as our pastor for 4 years this weekend.
- Now, today we'll see that Paul is wrapping up his 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey and will head back to Jerusalem.
- The uniqueness of these verses shows us Paul's heart, as he faced tough times and situations.
- They also show the emotions of Paul's disciples as they realized that this was probably the last timer they would ever see him.
- These verses also show that Paul modeled team ministry, which people appreciated.

Overview outline of today's message:

1. Paul travels to northern and southern Greece (20:1-6)
2. A week in Troas (verses 6-12)
  - a) Sunday evening worship (verses 7-8)
  - b) Death and resuscitation of Eutychus (verses 8-12)
3. Voyage to Miletus (verses 13-16)
4. Meeting with Ephesian elders (verses 17-38)
  - a) Paul recounts his ministry in Ephesus (verses 18-21)
  - b) Paul refers to his future sufferings (verses 22-27)
  - c) Paul exhorts the elders to be on guard (verses 28-38)
5. On to Jerusalem (21:1-17)
  - a) From Miletus to Tyre (verses 1-6)
  - b) From Tyre to Jerusalem (verses 7-17)
  - c) Conclusion

Poetic Preview of today's message – Pastor Craig's rhyming verses:

*After all the commotion had Ended,  
Paul moved on to Greece and many were Befriended.  
This was around the Days of Unleavened Bread,  
Luke tells of Eutychus falling three stories and picked up Dead.*

*Apparently it was midnight and Paul had talked him to Sleep,  
Then miraculously resuscitated him, so no time to Weep.  
They then returned upstairs and shared a small Meal,  
Paul then spoke until daylight, what was the Deal?*

*They then set sail for many small Towns,  
Paul wanting to make it to Jerusalem, Day of Pentecost Bound.  
In Miletus Paul sent for elders in Ephesus, ordained in Church,  
To them he openly shared his past and his continuing Search.*

*He exhorted them as shepherds keep watch over the Flock,  
Be on guard when savage wolves come and Knock.  
A sad time this was, and the last time they would see Paul,  
His final concern was maintaining the faith of each and All.*

*In his final words to them he shared how he had Served,  
How and what he sacrificed so they wouldn't be Unnerved.  
He then knelt down and with each one Prayed,  
Their emotions were raw, wishing he Stayed.*

*Once again on the ship Paul set Sail,  
Spent time in cities with disciples as the Spirit would Prevail.  
Many warned Paul not to return to the city of the King,  
Fearing his death a quite surreal sort of Thing.*

*But returning to Jerusalem for Paul was quite Clear,  
He made it quite obvious that his death was no Fear.  
On his way he stayed with Phillip, one of the Seven,  
Had four unmarried daughters who prophecied from Heaven.*

*Then a prophet named Agabus foretold of Paul's Doom,  
Binding Paul with a belt, a message of Jerusalem's Gloom.  
Paul's faith leading to Jerusalem, he wouldn't be Dissuaded,  
Despite their heartfelt efforts and how they Persuaded.*

**Acts 20:1 NIV), When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. 2) He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece,**

- Luke was conveying that Paul was not just doing a one-person ministry, but involving others.
- Paul also displayed a heart of encouragement.
- So, today, we also need to be an encourager to others.
- When we are kind to others, we encourage them.
- Encouragement is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

**3) where he stayed three months. Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. 4) He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. 5) These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. 6) But we sailed from Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days.**

- Paul was constantly teaching and encouraging the new converts to Christianity.

**7) On the first day of the week we came together to break bread.**

- This is an example of a Sunday evening worship service.
- This was the New Testament time that people worshipped God.
- History tells us that the Sunday worship service included Communion and the giving of offerings as well as the singing of worship hymns, offering prayers and the giving of a spiritual message.

**7b Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. 8) There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. 9) Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on.**

- Because Paul probably would not be back, he was compelled to give a long message.
- Perhaps the “young man” was around 12-14 years old.

**When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. 10) Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “He’s alive!” 11) Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. 12) The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.**

- Paul did bring this young man to life again.
- This was obviously very encouraging to the people.

**13) We went on ahead to the ship and sailed for Assos, where we were going to take Paul aboard. He had made this arrangement because he was going there on foot. 14) When he met us at Assos, we took him aboard and went on to Mitylene. 15) The next day we set sail from there and arrived off Chios. The day after that we crossed over to Samos, and on the following day arrived at Miletus. 16) Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus to avoid spending time in the province of Asia, for he was in a hurry to reach Jerusalem, if possible, by the day of Pentecost.**

- Because Luke wrote “we” in these verses, it means that Luke had joined Paul and others.
- Luke is pointing out the fact that Paul wanted to meet with the various disciples along the way.

**17) From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. 18) When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. 19) I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. 20) You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. 21) I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus.**

- The word “elders” here mean the church ministry leaders.

- Paul probably knew that this was the last time he would be with them, so he shared his heart with them.
- Paul's message to them is also a message for us.
- "Turn to God in repentance" means that we adopt a different focus and a different life style.
- Repentance also means that we turn from our former self and way of life to a new life, which requires a trust that Jesus loves us and through His death and resurrection will give us the Holy Spirit to transform us.

**22) "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23) I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me.**

- Paul was compelled by the Spirit that he should go to Jerusalem, even though others warned him that it would be very dangerous for him.

**24) 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.**

- This is another compelling message for each of us – can we take on the same mantle that Paul took on.
- Do we feel that God has given us a life of ministry to serve Him?
- We need to be able to share the good news about Jesus.
- So, what do we want to accomplish in Monrovia – to let our light shine there and to share Jesus' love with others.

**25) "Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. 26) Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. 27) For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God. 28) Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood. 29) I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. 30) Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. 31) So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.**

- Paul's final message is that he is concerned about their continued welfare and their faith.

**32) "Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33) I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. 34) You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. 35) In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' 36) When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. 37) They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. 38) What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.**

- This is one of Paul's farewell journeys, which show how people loved Paul because of his kindness and love towards them.

**Acts 21:1 (NIV), After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to Kos. The next day we went to Rhodes and from there to Patara. 2) We found a ship crossing over to Phoenicia, went on board and set sail. 3) After sighting Cyprus and passing to the south of it, we sailed on to Syria. We landed at Tyre, where our ship was to unload its cargo. 4) We sought out the disciples there and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem. 5) When it was time to leave, we left and continued on our way. All of them, including wives and children, accompanied us out of the city, and there on the beach we knelt to pray. 6) After saying goodbye to each other, we went aboard the ship, and they returned home.**

- This showed Paul's practice of prayer and concern for each of the church members.

**7) We continued our voyage from Tyre and landed at Ptolemais, where we greeted the brothers and sisters and stayed with them for a day. 8) Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. 9) He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.**

**10) After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11) Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"**

- The Holy Spirit through Agabus, warned Paul of what to expect when he went to Jerusalem.

**12) When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. 13) Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."**

- Paul had no fear of death because his life was in the hands of Jesus.
- He knew that his life was already preserved for eternity.
- So, his physical death was obviously not an issue for him – he was ready to die for sharing Jesus with others.

**14) When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "The Lord's will be done." 15) After this, we started on our way up to Jerusalem. 16) Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied us and brought us to the home of Mnason, where we were to stay. He was a man from Cyprus and one of the early disciples. 17) When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers and sisters received us warmly.**

- Paul's heart was definitely committed to go to Jerusalem.

Poetic Summary of last week's and today's message: (Let's say this together):

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(Closing prayer)