

Sermon Discussion Questions

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Burrell

Topic: A Life Worth Living

Scriptures: Acts 20: 1-37

Opening:

Open your time in prayer by thanking God for His work through faithful people, asking for wisdom to understand what a life of purpose looks like, and praying for courage to live in light of what matters most.

Give Background & Context:

Acts 20 shows Paul moving toward Jerusalem with urgency, continuing to strengthen the churches, and ultimately giving a final message to the Ephesian elders. The chapter gives both a picture of Paul's ministry in motion and a clear explanation of his philosophy of life—centered on obedience, truth, and sacrificial love.

- Read Acts Acts 20:1–16
 - What do we learn about Paul's commitment to encouraging believers along the way (v. 1–2)?
 - The story of Eutychus (v. 7–12) is unusual—what does it reveal about the early church's gatherings and Paul's ministry?
 - How does Paul's urgency to reach Jerusalem (v. 16) shape how he makes decisions?
 - What does this section show about living with purpose rather than drifting through life?
- Read Acts 20:17–27
 - How does Paul describe the way he lived among the people (v. 18–21)? What stands out about his character?
 - What does it mean that Paul is “constrained by the Spirit” (v. 22)? How does that affect his willingness to suffer?
 - In verse 24, Paul says he does not count his life as valuable compared to finishing his mission. What does that reveal about his philosophy of life?
 - What does it look like for someone to prioritize obedience to Christ over comfort or personal safety?
- Read Acts 20:28–37
 - What responsibility does Paul give the leaders in verse 28, and what motivates that responsibility?
 - What warnings does Paul give about future threats to the church (v. 29–30)? Why are these warnings important?
 - How does Paul's example in verses 33–35 demonstrate a life focused on others rather than self?
 - How do the closing moments (v. 36–37) reflect the kind of impact a life like Paul's has on others?
- Sermon Reflection Questions
 - Acts 20 shows both Paul's movement (v. 1–16) and his message (v. 17–37). How do those two together give a fuller picture of what a faithful life looks like?
 - The sermon emphasized that obedience to Christ was Paul's highest value. What are some competing values today that can easily take that place?
 - Paul did not “shrink back” from sharing the truth. Why is that such a challenge in today's culture?
 - Paul viewed every relationship as an opportunity for gospel impact. What might it look like for someone to grow in that kind of awareness?