

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 he had said this, 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.

2. Talk Notes

2.1 After three years of ministry in Ephesus Paul gives a final farewell address to the elders of the church. In his address he a) looks back b) considers the present and c) looks forward to the future.

2.2 Past (20:17-21)

- As Paul reviews 3 years of ministry at Ephesus he reminds the elders that he
 - i. Lived in Community with them (v18) '*I lived the whole time I was with you*'
 - ii. Came to serve God and them (v19) '*I served the Lord*'
 - iii. Met Opposition (v19) '*severely tested by the plots of the Jews*'
 - iv. Preached the gospel fearlessly both to Jew and Greek (v20-21) '*I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful*'

2.3 Present (20:22-27)

- As Paul considers his current position he
 - i. Trusts his future to God (v22) '*not knowing what will happen to me there*'
 - ii. Knows things will not be easy (v23) '*prison and hardships are facing me*'
 - iii. Focuses on finishing the task in hand (v24) '*finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me*'

2.4 Future (20:28-35)

- Paul warns the elders of the Ephesian Church that Satan ('*wolves*') would attack:
 - i. Them – they needed to guard themselves (v28) '*Keep watch over yourselves*'
 - ii. The Church:
 - a. From the outside '*savage wolves will come*' (v29)
 - b. From the inside '*even from your own number*' (v30)

3. Coffee 'n' Stickies Questions

3.1 What similarities and dissimilarities can you see between Paul's ministry in Ephesus and the ministry of a typical C of E minister today?

3.2 Imagine you are reviewing St Julian's over the last two years what would you say? How would you review your own involvement?

3.3 What can we learn about guidance from verses 22-23?

3.4 Who or what are the '*wolves*' today attacking the church from the inside and the outside? How do we keep watch over ourselves?

3.5 In a conversation the other day a friend of yours says that 'Christians really ought to button it up and keep their religious beliefs to themselves.' How would you respond?

Matthew Street 29th October 2006

The Benefice of Deasedown St John with Wellow

The Parish of Wellow

'Be Daring and Dynamic' 24 Studies in Acts

Acts 20:17-38 A minister's farewell

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below or join us at **Coffee 'n' Stickies** Wednesday 1st November 7.30pm at The Cottage, High Street, Wellow, Bath (Call Pauline Preddy 01225 832625 for directions) to discuss the questions further.

1. Talk Passage

Acts 20:17-38

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, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.

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.

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.

24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

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 all men.

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.

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 he had said this, 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.

2. Talk Notes

2.1 After three years of ministry in Ephesus Paul gives a final farewell address to the elders of the church. In his address he a) looks back b) considers the present and c) looks forward to the future.

2.2 Past (20:17-21)

- As Paul reviews 3 years of ministry at Ephesus he reminds the elders that he
 - i. Lived in Community with them (v18) '*I lived the whole time I was with you*'
 - ii. Came to serve God and them (v19) '*I served the Lord*'
 - iii. Met Opposition (v19) '*severely tested by the plots of the Jews*'
 - iv. Preached the gospel fearlessly both to Jew and Greek (v20-21) '*I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful*'

2.3 Present (20:22-27)

- As Paul considers his current position he
 - i. Trusts his future to God (v22) '*not knowing what will happen to me there*'
 - ii. Knows things will not be easy (v23) '*prison and hardships are facing me*'
 - iii. Focuses on finishing the task in hand (v24) '*finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me*'

2.4 Future (20:28-35)

- Paul warns the elders of the Ephesian Church that Satan ('*wolves*') would attack:
 - i. Them – they needed to guard themselves (v28) '*Keep watch over yourselves*'
 - ii. The Church:
 - a. From the outside '*savage wolves will come*' (v29)
 - b. From the inside '*even from your own number*' (v30)

3. Coffee 'n' Stickies Questions

3.1 What similarities and dissimilarities can you see between Paul's ministry in Ephesus and the ministry of a typical C of E minister today?

3.2 Imagine you are reviewing St Julian's over the last two years what would you say? How would you review your own involvement?

3.3 What can we learn about guidance from verses 22-23?

3.4 Who or what are the '*wolves*' today attacking the church from the inside and the outside? How do we keep watch over ourselves?

3.5 In a conversation the other day a friend of yours says that 'Christians really ought to button it up and keep their religious beliefs to themselves.' How would you respond?

Matthew Street 29th October 2006

The Benefice of Deasedown St John with Wellow

The Parish of Wellow

'Be Daring and Dynamic' 24 Studies in Acts

Acts 20:17-38 A minister's farewell

Passage, Talk Notes and Questions

Please feel free to take these talk notes home with you and you may wish to find some time during this week to consider the questions below or join us at **Coffee 'n' Stickies** Wednesday 1st November 7.30pm at The Cottage, High Street, Wellow, Bath (Call Pauline Preddy 01225 832625 for directions) to discuss the questions further.

1. Talk Passage

Acts 20:17-38

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, although I was severely tested by the plots of the Jews.

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.

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.

24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-- the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

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 all men.

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.

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.