

LESSON 6

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY (PART 3)

VISITS TO MACEDONIA, GREECE, AND TROAS (20:1-6)

When we read the first six verses of chapter 20, they seem merely to be a brief summary of Paul's trip to Greece and back, as he wrapped up his third missionary journey. Like other sections of Scripture that at first seem relatively unimportant and perhaps even dull, these verses, studied in depth, yield rich truths. It is possible that Luke did not give details of this period because they were already known through Paul's letters, Romans and 1 and 2 Corinthians.

1. How did Paul respond to the open door in Troas?
2. What "conflicts" (2 Cor. 7:5) did Paul face in Macedonia?
3. Who were among the traveling companions who met Paul in Corinth, and what churches did they represent?
4. Why did these men travel with Paul to take the contribution to Jerusalem?
5. How did Paul's plans change when he learned of a plot against him in Corinth?

IN TROAS: A LORD'S DAY MEETING (20:7–12)

In the previous passage (vv. 1–6), Luke rushed through months of activity and adventure. In this passage, Luke methodically gave the facts about a young man who fell asleep in the assembly. One of the most fascinating aspects of the text is the picture it paints of the congregation in Troas as it met together. The family atmosphere of the early church is most impressive.

6. Why did the early church meet on the first day of the week?
7. At what time of day did the church at Troas probably meet and why?
8. What was the heart of the worship of the early church, as demonstrated by this meeting at Troas?
9. What does the word translated “talking” in 20:7 mean?
10. What factors added to Eutychus’ drowsiness?
11. For what reasons did Paul raise Eutychus from the dead?
12. What was the nature of the second breaking of bread, which took place after Eutychus was raised?

ON THE WAY TO JERUSALEM (20:13–16)

Paul told his traveling companions to board the ship while he himself walked overland to Assos, the next port of call (v. 13). Assos was on the opposite side of the peninsula from Troas—about twenty miles by land, forty miles by ship.

13. Why could Paul not stop in Ephesus and still get to Jerusalem by the Day of Pentecost?
14. Why was Paul so anxious to arrive in Jerusalem before the Day of Pentecost?

**IN MILETUS: A SERIOUS TALK
TO THE EPHESIAN ELDERS (20:17–38)**

Seven sermons by Paul are recorded in the Book of Acts, excluding his brief words in Lystra (14:14–18). Only one is addressed to Christians—the one recorded in this section.

15. What does the word translated “serving” in 20:19 mean?
16. What facts can help us to reconcile Paul’s statement in 20:25 with the fact that he may have revisited Ephesus later?
17. What does the Greek word translated “overseers” mean?
18. What is the job description of the function of elders, and what does this description include?
19. What “wolves” later arose in Ephesus to lead the flock astray?
20. Why was the fact that Paul knelt to pray with the elders significant?