

# **“The Raising Of Eutychus From The Dead”**

## **Acts 20:1-17**

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**Teaching Aim:** To follow Paul and his associates on their journey from Ephesus to Greece. To recognize the continued danger Paul put himself in as he shared the gospel. To realize, time and time again, people wanted to kill him because of his ministry. To examine the amazing miracle God did through Paul in raising the young man Eutychus from the dead. To understand the importance of being obedient to God, even if it puts our lives at risk.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: The assassination plot against Paul and his subsequent journey through Greece (Acts 20:1-6)**

1. As we come to **Acts chapter 20**, Paul and his associates had survived a riot at Ephesus which had been instigated by the silversmith Demetrius. How had he caused the city to be in such an uproar? (See **Acts 19: 23-27**). Once again, protection for Paul and his ministry came from an unexpected source, governmental representatives of the Roman Empire. What did the city clerk say to protect Paul, Gaius, and Aristarchus from the mob? (See **Acts 19:35-41**) What did Paul decide to do once the city clerk had put a stop to the riot in Ephesus (**vs. 1**)? Was this a wise decision? Why or why not?
2. Where did Paul and his companions go after he departed from Ephesus? Had Paul ministered in this region before? If so, when? What major cities had Paul ministered to in Macedonia during his 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Journey? (See Bible Map) Is it possible that Paul bypassed Thessalonica on his 3<sup>rd</sup> Missionary Journey? If so, why? (See **Acts 17:1-9**)
3. As Paul traveled through Macedonia, he encouraged the churches with many words before finally arriving at Achaia (**vv. 2-3a**). Paul had a heart for the new church plants and followed up on the progress of new believers every opportunity he had; this should be an example for every church leader today; Paul had a shepherd’s heart. Paul stayed three months in Achaia where he ministered to the troubled church at Corinth. What can we learn about Paul’s stay from **1 Cor. 16:5-6**?

4. Finally, it was time for Paul to head to Jerusalem if he wanted to make it in time for the Jewish festivals of Passover, Unleavened Bread, Firstfruits, and Pentecost. What did Paul discover as he was preparing to sail to Syria (**vs. 3b**)? How did he find out? Since Paul would be at sea for several days, how might this plot have been carried out against him?
  
5. How did Paul's plans change once he learned there was a plot to take his life? (**vs. 3b**)? Notice that Paul did not travel alone, he had other men with him. In **verses 4 and 5** we learn that there were at least nine men in his traveling party. What seven men are mentioned by name in **verses 4 and 5**? What famous doctor was also traveling with Paul at the time? What can we learn about each man from the Bible?
  
6. Why is the team effort always better than that of the lone ranger? It is important for us to realize that every regenerate (or born-again) Christian receives at least one spiritual gift at the moment of regeneration, most receive more, nobody receives all of the spiritual gifts. Why? Our spiritual gifts are given to us for the building up of the body of Christ to maturity. What are your strongest spiritual gifts and how are you using them in ministry? (See **Rom 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; 1 Cor. 14:1-40; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 pet. 4:10-11**)
  
7. It appears that Paul and Luke the physician (the writer of the Book of Acts) celebrated the Feast of Unleavened Bread together in Philippi (**vs. 6**). Some scholars believe that this is the city that Luke was from. Where did Paul and Luke sail to following their celebration of the Feast of Unleavened Bread? How long did it take them to travel there? Note: The trip west only took two days, why do you think the trip east took five days? (See **Acts 16:8-12**) Is it possible there was no wind to power the ship's sails? Or is it more likely they had to face contrary winds?
  
8. For how long did Paul stay at Troas (**vs. 6b**)? Why do you think he stayed there that long? (See Commentaries) Note: Paul had four immediate goals in mind: 1) To make it to Jerusalem in time to celebrate the Feast of Weeks (Pentecost); 2) To deliver the collection he had taken to the needy believers in Jerusalem; 3) Paul then wanted to go to Rome which was the capital city of the Roman Empire; 4) After Rome, Paul desired to go to Spain, the furthest point west before running into the Atlantic Ocean. Why was it strategically important for Paul to go to the city of Rome?

## Part II: Paul's ministry in Troas and the raising of Eutychus from the dead (Acts 20:7-12)

1. On what day did the disciples come together to break bread at Troas (**vs. 7**)? What day of the week is the first day? Why did the early church begin meeting on the Lord's Day (Sunday), instead of on the Sabbath Day (or the seventh day – Saturday)? What two major historical events occurred on a Sunday? (See **Luke 24:1-6; Acts 2:1-4**) What can we learn from the following Bible verses about the early church? (See **Acts 16:2; 20:7; Col. 2:16-17**)
2. Why do you think the church met so late that night (**vs. 7b**)? Where do we find the early church meeting on that fateful evening? Was this likely the home of a fellow believer? Why? What can we learn about the conditions from **verse 8**? Will many lamps burning in a room quickly make it stuffy? If so, why? Note: Sunday was a workday at this time so the believers probably had to wait until the evening to meet.
3. Who was sitting in a window as the Apostle Paul spoke late into the early morning hours (**vs. 9**)? What can we learn from a name in the Bible? What is the meaning of this young man's name? (See Commentaries) How old was he? Is it possible this young man was a slave or servant who had worked all day? What happened to the young man once he dozed off? What does the Bible say about the young man's condition after the fall? Why is it significant that it is Dr. Luke who reports his condition?
4. What did Paul do once his sermon had been interrupted by the fall (**vs. 10**)? What can we learn about the reaction of the congregation from Paul's words, "*Do not trouble yourselves.*" What similarities do you see in Paul's response to that of Elijah and Elijah when they were in similar situations? (See **1 Kin. 17:21-23; 2 Kin. 4:33-35**)
5. Why do you think so many people have trouble staying awake in church? Do you find church boring? What are some practices you can do to help you be more prepared at church for an intimate experience with the Lord? Are you excited to meet with the Lord each Lord's Day? If not, why not?

6. What did Paul do once Eutychus had been raised from the dead (**vs. 11**)? How long did Paul continue the ministry on this meaningful evening? Since Monday was a workday, did most of the members of the congregation have to go to work after this all-night church meeting? Do you object when the preacher preaches too long or are you excited to learn more?
  
7. What can we learn from the following words of D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones: *"The decadent periods and eras in the history of the church have always been those periods where preaching has declined."* Where do you see the church in America today? How did the little congregation at Troas respond to the all-night church meeting and fellowship, especially when Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (**vs. 12**)?

### **Part III: Paul's trip towards Jerusalem and his meeting with the Ephesian elders (Acts 20:13-17)**

1. As morning dawned, the people began to leave and go their way (**vs. 13**)? How did Luke and the rest of the party travel to Assos? How did the Apostle Paul travel there? Why did Paul travel on this part of the trip by himself? What happened once Paul completed the 20-mile journey on foot to Assos (**vs. 14**)?
  
2. By the time Paul joined the others, he had received clear direction from God to travel to Jerusalem as quickly as he could, he didn't want to miss the Feast of Pentecost. What four cities along the way were mentioned in **verse 15**? Note: Chios was the birthplace of the Greek poet Homer. What was Homer famous for?
  
3. Paul had ministered in the city of Ephesus for 2 ½ to 3 years before he left. Why did Paul purposely pass by the city without stopping there? Do you think it was because of the riot which had recently occurred in Ephesus, or was it because he was in a hurry to be at Jerusalem, if possible, to celebrate the Feast of Weeks (the Day of Pentecost) (**vs. 16**)?

4. What did Paul decide to do during the days that the ship was in port at Miletus (**vs. 17**)? Note: The ship must have been in port for several days. In each city, Paul had appointed a team of elders to lead each church. (See **Pro. 15:22**) What can we learn about the qualifications of an elder from **1 Tim. 3:1-7** and **Titus 1:3-9**? What are your initial thoughts after reading these qualifications? How many men do you know who fully meet each qualification? Why do you think God made the qualifications to be an elder so strict?

#### **MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Like Paul, every Christian should be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in his or her life and ministry.
- Paul understood the principle that a lot more can be accomplished through a team effort than by one person trying to do it all in ministry.
- Paul recognized the need to be proactive in raising up new leadership in the church.
- Paul realized there is a time to live and a time to die; the planned assassination attempt on Paul's life was not his time to die, he still had work to do for the Lord.
- God will do incredible things through Christians when they are fully dedicated to Him.
- In the raising of Eutychus from the dead, God not only authenticated Paul as His Apostle, but He also authenticated the message that Paul brought.
- Paul realized the importance of encouraging the Ephesian elders to stay the course as attacks from the enemy would be coming.