



The Acts of the Spirit
DISTURBING THE PEACE

ACTS 20:17-38

“THE ELDERS”

NOVEMBER 10, 2024

SUMMARY

Pastor Joey dug into a rare discourse on Leadership in the book of Acts. During his years-long missionary trip, Paul likely spent hundreds of hours training leaders, but few accounts are recorded in the book. As his missionary journey is closing and he will likely never return, Paul gathers these small churches' shepherds and imparts them his final words. Joey admonished us to pay close attention to what Paul thought was important to impart to these pastors, whom he may or may not see again.

In summary, Paul says to these leaders, "I am going now; you are the captain of the ship. I am not the hero of this story, but Jesus is, and it is your job now to carry on the banner in his name."

And if that is true, you must:

- Set a Course toward the mission (Great Commission)
- Care for/train/discipline the crew towards that mission (Discipleship)
- Defends the ship against the enemy (Sound Doctrine)

This is what it means to be a leader in Christ Church, a noble and high calling. These leaders will return to their churches full of obstacles, resistance, and attacks from those who want to destroy the church with this admonition. Christ has called them now to take up the mantle and lead the church into the future.

For us today, this text has two application points: First, it encourages, informs, and inspires current and future leaders. Second, it encourages, informs, and inspires the "crew" to be the best shipmates as we seek to make Jesus known in our tiny outpost of the kingdom. Today, let's dig into the text and further apply it to our lives.



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DISCUSSION

- What types of responsibilities come with being the captain of a ship?
- What types of responsibilities come with being a member of a ship's crew?

Pastor Joey Said a good captain:

- Sets a course toward a mission (Great Commission)
- Cares for/trains/disciplines the crew towards that mission (Discipleship)
- Defends the ship against enemies outside and within. (Doctrine)
 - What happens to a ship if captains and crew don't do each of these things?

Extract the Truth

Read the text: Acts 20:17-36

- What Jumps out?
- Why is this passage from Paul important for the future health and success of the church?
- What does it teach us about what we should expect life in the church to be like?
- What does it teach us about what we can expect from our leaders?
- What does it imply we, as good crew members, should do?

Experience Transformation

Being a member of a ship has two components: Leading yourself and following your captain.

Self-Leadership:

- In the following areas, what is going well, and what needs work?
 - Setting a Course toward a Mission (Great Commission)
 - Caring for/training/disciplining yourself for the mission (Discipleship)
 - Defending your heart and mind and enemies outside and within. (Doctrine)



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.



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Following our Captains:

- In the following areas, what is going well, and what needs work?

Following our Captains towards the Great Commission

- Becoming trained, cared for, and disciplined in our discipleship of Jesus.
- Defending the ship against enemies outside and within. (Doctrine)
 - What is one big takeaway from this conversation and one thing you want to do about it?

**PREPARE FOR
NEXT WEEK:**

Read Acts 21:1-16

