



The Acts of the Spirit
DISTURBING THE PEACE

ACTS 20:7-16

“THE FALL”

NOVEMBER 3, 2024

SUMMARY

Pastor Joey reminded us that time has a way of naturally sorting out what you truly care about and what is of lesser importance. This was on display uniquely in this week's text.

After years in the mission field, Paul headed home to Jerusalem. He is unsure if he will ever return to train his spiritual children in these faith communities throughout the Roman Empire. With little time, Paul must prioritize the most important things to impart to them so they can continue the mission and walk the way of Jesus without him.

These people are struggling in a challenging world where physical and spiritual threats lurk around every corner. He must help do what he can to anchor them in the way of Jesus.

So naturally, Paul gets to teaching because nothing is more important or bigger than Jesus. All night, he reasoned from the scriptures about the gospel and glory of Jesus. He can't waste one moment to make sure they get this right. In fact, he goes on so long that a believer named EUTICUS falls asleep and falls out the window to his death.

This was an awful and tragic moment for this local church. So, Paul rushes to his aid, brings him back to life, comforts those who saw it happen, and then quickly rushes back to the podium to continue talking.

Why? Because Paul had to choose what was most important at that moment and what would love these people the most.

Of course, this doesn't mean that Eutyclus or this miracle wasn't important, but when time is short, nothing, not even a miracle, is more important than telling people about the Gospel of Jesus.

Today, we have no shortage of things that threaten to skew our priorities or block out Jesus from our focus. But when time is short- it wakes us up to focus on the most important things that truly matter and anchor us in this world: Jesus; nothing is bigger or more important than Him.

Let's discuss this text today and apply its wisdom to our lives.



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DISCUSSION

Expand Awareness

When time is short, we all must choose what matters most and let the rest fall.

- What is about time impacts your ability to prioritize either positively or negatively?

Often, we have to choose between good things and greater things.

- How do you decide of all the good things, what is most important?

Extract the Truth

Read the text: Acts 20:7-12

- What jumps out to you?
- If Paul had been able to stay with this community for longer, what would he have likely wanted to do with them, do for them, and teach them?
- What did the mission God had given to Paul require him to preoptimize and why?
- Based on the book of Acts so far, what topics do you think Paul needed to cover to ensure their preparation for the road ahead?

Experience Transformation

Our time on this earth is short; based on average life expectancy, we will roughly only live 4000 weeks.

- At the end of your life, what do you want to be said about what you prioritized in your life and why?
- What things, desires, or challenges are getting in the way of that now?
- In the safety of God's lavish Grace, what is God prompting you to reprioritize in your life?
- How can this Group help you do that?



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.

PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Read Acts 20:17-38

