

## 70. Paul Spent Time in Troas

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children learn to understand why God has allowed governments, both good and evil, to be established in the various countries of the world. Those governments are there to make sure that civil order and justice are carried out in that country. That does not mean that such governments may not be evil. Instead, we see that God can work even through evil governments to maintain civil order. Today, we will see what happened as Paul began a trip to return to the city of Jerusalem.

In Acts 20:1-3, we read, “After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to *himself*, embraced *them*, and departed to go to Macedonia. Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece and stayed three months. And when the Jews plotted against him as he was about to sail to Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.” Because of the riot in the city of Ephesus, Paul, along with all of the Christians, knew that it was necessary for Paul to leave Ephesus. As a result, Paul called the disciples to himself and embraced them. Then, he traveled from Ephesus and went to Macedonia.

We see that Paul then traveled throughout the region of Macedonia and encouraged the Christians in the various cities of Macedonia. We see that in each place Paul went, he encouraged the Christians with many words. Throughout his ministry, Paul realized that one of his key ministries, when he returned to visit Christians, was to encourage them. Acts 14:21-22 says, “And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.” Paul knew that Christians needed encouragement.

Once Paul had traveled throughout Macedonia, he came to Greece. We see that Paul then spent three months in Greece encouraging the Christians there. It was during this time that Paul was in Macedonia and Greece (Achaia) that he was receiving the offering that the Christians in these areas had collected for the needy saints in Jerusalem. Romans 15:25-26 says, “But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.” Then, 2 Corinthians 8:1-4 says, “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to *their* ability, yes, and beyond *their* ability, *they were* freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.” These saints considered it a privilege to give to needy Christians in other areas. Paul was ready to sail for Syria and Jerusalem when the Jews plotted against him and so he returned through Macedonia instead.

Acts 20:4-6 says, “And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia--also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. These men, going ahead, waited for us at Troas. But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days.” Here,

we see seven of the men that were traveling with Paul on that trip. These men went ahead and waited for Paul in Troas. This group does not include any others who traveled with Paul when he made a short stop at Philippi. Since Luke wrote the book of Acts, we see that Luke rejoined Paul in the stop at Philippi. These verses remind us that Paul followed the example of Christ and developed additional leaders by taking other men with him as he ministered.

After Paul and Luke rejoined the other seven men on the team at Troas, we see that they stayed in that city for seven days. When Sunday (the first day of the week) came, we see that the team joined the other disciples in the city of Troas to break bread. Acts 20:7-9 says, “Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight. There were many lamps in the upper room where they were gathered together. And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.” Here, we see that it was on the first day of the week that the disciples gathered to break bread (have a meal and communion service together). The fact that they gathered on the first day of the week was to remember the resurrection of our Lord.

Paul and the team were planning to leave Troas the next day. Paul was asked to speak to the disciples gathered together that night, because they realized this might be the last time they would see him and they wanted to hear him speak once more. We see that Paul had a rather lengthy message that evening. In fact, we are told that Paul was still speaking at midnight. Homes around the Mediterranean Sea were often built with flat roofs. Often, such homes would have one additional room built on the roof. This upper room was often used as a place to pray, to eat or just to gather together because they would be able to enjoy the breeze as this room was higher than the rest of the house.

This was apparently a fairly large upper room because there were many lamps around the room to give light. Some homes had large upper rooms because Acts 1:13-15 says, “And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James *the son* of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas *the son* of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples (altogether the number of names was about a hundred and twenty), and said.” Here, we see that this upper room was able to hold a total of 120 people. Most of the people were probably sitting on the floor, but some of them sat in the windows. One young man sitting in a window was named Eutychus. Since Paul spoke until midnight, this young man fell into a deep sleep. As a result, he fell out of the window, which was actually the third story of the home in which it was located. When the people reached the ground where his body landed, they lifted up the body and found that he was dead from the fall.

Acts 20:10-12 says, “But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing *him* said, ‘Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him.’ Now when he had come up, had broken bread and eaten, and talked a long while, even till daybreak, he departed. And they brought the young man in alive,

and they were not a little comforted.” Paul also went down to where the body of the young man was. He then embraced the body. After embracing the body, Paul told the people not to be troubled. The word translated “trouble” means *to make an uproar or to weep loudly*. Mark 5:39-40 says, “When He came in, He said to them, ‘Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.’ And they ridiculed Him. But when He had put them all outside, He took the father and the mother of the child, and those *who were* with Him, and entered where the child was lying.” In Mark, Christ raised the child back to life. Here, Paul restored the life of this young man and told the people not to make a commotion or to weep.

Then, the people all went back to the upper room. There they broke bread and remembered the death and resurrection of Christ together. However, since this was the last night that Paul would be with the disciples at Troas, we see that their time was not finished when they completed their meal and remembered the death and resurrection of Christ. The Christians in Troas realized that this was an opportunity for Paul to answer their questions and so they continued to talk. The word translated “talked” means *to spend time with people and talk together*. This word is used twice in Luke 24:14-15 where we read, “And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them.” In verse 14, the word is translated “talked” and in verse 15, it is translated “conversed”. These were the two men on the road to Emmaus and Christ joined them and talked together with them as they walked.

The disciples in Troas talked together with Paul because they realized that this might be the last opportunity they would have to ask Paul their questions. Answering the questions of Christians should be one of our key ministries because that is something that helps equip people to explain the Word of God to others. Luke 24:45 says, “And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.” Paul wanted to make certain that these Christians in Troas got their questions answered so that their understanding was opened also. As a result, Paul and the people in Troas talked until daybreak before he and the team left Troas.

Here, we see a key way that we want to help our physical and spiritual children. We also want to take the time to talk together with them and help them get their questions answered, because that is what makes it possible for them to clearly explain the Word of God to others. That is one of the ways that we help our children to become reproducing Christians. That is how they learn to answer the questions of others in the future and help others understand the Word of God. May the Lord richly bless you as you answer questions and help your children become reproducing Christians.