



Topeka Bible Church
The Life of Paul, Episode 37:
"When It Hurts to Say Goodbye"
Community Group Study Questions
Acts 20:32-35 and selected passages

1. Paul said that he committed/commended the elders of Ephesus to God and to the work of his grace (Acts 20:32; cf. 14:23). What did he mean by this? How is the word of God's grace able to build up? What "inheritance" is Paul talking about (Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)?
2. Look at Paul's example in Acts 20:33 (cf. 2 Corinthians 11:8-9; 12:14)? Does this describe you? Do you take from others or frequently expect monetary help from others (parents, friends, etc.)? How does God want you to live differently?
3. How effective are you at supplying your own needs (Acts 20:34; cf. Acts 18:1-3)? How can a failure to do so be a burden to others (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12; 4:11-12)? Have you ever known someone who burdened others in this way? What happened?
4. Who are the "weak" (Acts 20:35)? Do you currently help the weak (Proverbs 14:31; Romans 12:3; 15:26)? Why or why not? Why can it be so challenging to help them (1 John 3:16-17)? How do you know if you are helping them and simply enabling them?

5. Where in the gospels does Jesus say "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35; Maybe see Luke 6:38, but also note John 20:30)? Why is Paul referencing this quote here? What blessing awaits those who give (Matthew 25:34-40)?

6. What ways do you need to change so as to avoid being a burden to others (scheduling, spending, leisure activities, etc.)? In other words, *how can you start giving instead of receiving?* If you have you been an unnecessary burden to anyone recently, whose forgiveness might you need to seek (cf. Matthew 18:23-24)?

7. Considering that these were Paul's final words to these men in this life (cf. Acts 20:36-38), how can we follow his example? Have you ever said "goodbye" in a similar way to Paul in Acts 20? Is there anyone in your life that you need to commend to the Lord, even if you will see them again in this life?

Memory Verse:

"And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified."

(Acts 20:32, NASB)