

The Heart of the Matter

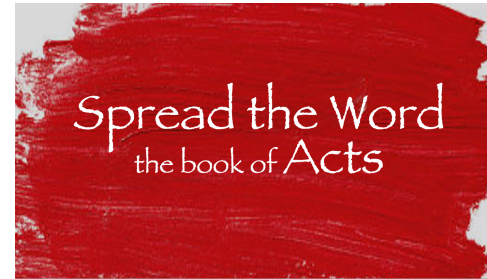
12. In this passage we see more of a loving shepherd than a hard-driven missionary with Paul. Has your preoccupation with the task of ministry ever caused you to miss out on loving people along the way?

13. Paul warned that the elders would be facing dangers from within and without of the church. What dangers are we facing from within and without our church with the culture today?

14. Paul was highly driven to plant churches and encourage people to follow Christ. What are you highly driven to do for the kingdom of God?

15. How has a pastor's departure from a church you attended affected you in the past?

Praises and Prayer Requests:



Life Group Study Guide

Don't Shrink Back Acts 19:1-20:38 For the Week of August 29, 2021

Getting Started

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling?
2. How do you say goodbye to people you love? Quick and painless? Long and drawn out? Weeping and wailing? Like it's no big deal? Other?
3. What are some things that you are very motivated to do or accomplish in your life?

Digging Deeper

4. How would you characterize Paul's ministry in Acts 19:1-20:16? Why does Paul emphasize how he lived among the Ephesians in verses 20:18-21?

5. What kinds of hardships has Paul already encountered? How would you explain what motivates Paul to keep on going in his ministry? (20:24; Philippians 3:7-8)

6. In 19:21 Paul was compelled by the Spirit to return to Jerusalem. But here in 20:22-24 Paul talks of the potential hardship he might face when he returns to Jerusalem through the Holy Spirit's warning. Are these two views in conflict?

7. In verse 25 Paul mentions that the Ephesian elders will never see him again. Why might this be hard for Paul to say? How might this have been hard for the elders to hear?

8. What does it mean to "keep watch" or "pay close attention" in verse 20:28? (1 Timothy 4:11-16) From verses 20:28-31 how is their appointment as elders divine, humbling, and dangerous?

9. List the dangers Paul warns the elders about that are around them and within them. How can Paul's message of grace in verses 20:33-35 help to protect them from these dangers?

10. Some people viewed the office of elder a way of gaining power and wealth (1 Timothy 6:6-10; 1 Peter 5:3). How does Paul oppose that idea here in this passage?

11. Farewells from people we love can be difficult as is evidenced in verses 20:36-38. What might Paul miss about the Ephesians? What might the Ephesians miss about Paul?