

## Acts 20:13-38: What Would Jesus Do? Part 1

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### I. Introduction

There's a famous saying, "What would Jesus do?" Do you know what Jesus would do in any given situation? If you've been a Christian more than a year, you should be well on your way to knowing this. If you don't, it's time someone showed you. If you do, but you aren't showing others, why not? The job of a Christian is to know how Jesus lived and then to show others how to live like Him too.

### II. Acts 20:13-38: What Does it Look Like to Show Others How to Live Like Jesus?

**20:13-16**, the Lord tells us that the relationship between us and our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ is inseparable, when one of us suffers, we all feel it (1 Corinthians 12:26) that's why He commands us to be *kindly affectionate to one another* and to *rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep* (Romans 12:10-15). We're a close knit family who is supposed to help each other mature in Christ (Ephesians 4:16). What does this look like in practice, what does it look like to rejoice and weep with your fellow Christians as you help them be more and more like Christ? We see what it looks like when we look at how the apostle Paul lived.

Having visited and said farewell to the churches in Macedonia, Achaia, and Troas, Paul continued his journey to Jerusalem, stopping here and there along the way. He decided not to stop at Ephesus one last time since a stay there might delay him from making it to Jerusalem by Pentecost (he had a very close bond with them, especially since he spent more time in Ephesus than any other church, 2 ½ - 3 yrs). However, he did say goodbye one last time.

**20:17-38**, when he got to Miletus (about 30-35 miles south of Ephesus), he called for the elders of Ephesus. Paul will actually visit Ephesus about five years later (cf. 1 Timothy 1:3; 3:14; 4:13). But Paul doesn't know this; he thinks that this is the last time he'll see them because in every city he visits the Holy Spirit keeps warning him about the dangers that await him in Jerusalem. What he says to the Ephesian elders is a vivid picture of discipleship, what it looks like up close and personal. He mentions 11 key elements of discipleship:

- (1) Paul lived life with them and among them (20:18, 20). That is, he showed them by example and personal one-on-one discipleship how the doctrine he taught them applied to real life.
- (2) He thought of/served them not himself (20:19, 22-25, 33-35). Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," a statement that none of His disciples wrote down but He said nonetheless. In fact, it's a statement that encapsulates what it means to be a disciple of Christ: it is to pour yourself out for others the way Jesus did, to give up your life for others. It means to invest your time, goods, energy, and emotions in the lives of others so that they can do likewise. That's what Paul did and that's what the Lord calls each one of us to do.
- (3) It was painful and it brought Paul to tears because their pain became his and because of the opposition that comes with making disciples (20:19). When you disciple someone, their heartbreak and agony becomes yours, but so does their joy. The opposition may come from within, i.e., those you disciple may not like the correction you bring to them. But it also comes from without: Satan is always trying to keep you from showing others how to live like Christ.

**Is showing people how to live like Jesus really this complicated?** This may sound complicated as if you have to remember 11 or more different things. But it's actually very simple; it boils down to a simple message. What you're basically telling people is this,

"Your Savior is here. You don't have to live like this anymore; there's a better way to live."

And then you begin to show them what you know, how Jesus showed you how to handle the things in your life, both good and bad, whether it's your boss, sex, money, a promotion, anxiety, anything and everything. You will show them how Jesus' Word can guide you through any situation and not just survive it, but come out the other side still intact, still in peace, still in joy: look at how Christ enabled Paul to respond to his terrible suffering (2 Corinthians 11:23-28), while in prison no less: Philippians 1:12-18.

Walking with Christ opens your eyes to see everything clearly. Your suffering is not just suffering. Your joy is not dependent on whether or not you suffer. Christ gives you the ability to see yourself clearly, God clearly, and everything around you clearly.



### III. Conclusion

And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day that I *am* innocent of the blood of all *men*. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God. .... Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears. So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. Yes, you yourselves know that these hands have provided for my necessities, and for those who were with me. I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "