**LEAVING THE RIGHT LEGACY**

**Acts 20:1-38**

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY BEING AN \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* *““After the uproar was over, Paul sent for the disciples, encouraged them, and after saying farewell, departed to go to Macedonia. 2 And when he had passed through those areas and offered them many words of encouragement...”* (Acts 20:1-2)
* **In a world of criticism and cancel culture, we need to be people who excel in love, compassion, and encouraging one another.**
* *“And may the Lord cause you to increase and overflow with love for one another and for everyone, just as we do for you… Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.”* (1 Thessalonians 3:12;5:11)
* ***How are you doing at being an encourager?***

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* *“When they came to him, he said to them, ‘You know, from the first day I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all humility…”* (Acts 20:18-19)
* **When we realize that our very life and redemption are gifts given by the Lord to us, we should be compelled to point people to Jesus rather than ourselves.**
* *“When arrogance comes, disgrace follows, but with humility comes wisdom.”* (Proverbs 11:2)
* **The beauty of the serving the Lord is that He takes imperfect, limited people and allows them to serve as a conduit for Himself, an all-powerful, all-perfect God, to advance His Kingdom agenda on earth!**
* ***How are you doing at embracing humility?***

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY GOSPEL \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* *“You know that I did not hesitate to proclaim anything to you that was profitable and to teach you publicly and from house to house. 21 I testified to both Jews and Greeks about repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus.”* (Acts 20:20-21)
* *“Therefore I declare to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all of you, 27 because I did not avoid declaring to you the whole plan of God.”* (Acts 20:26-27)
* *“If I say to the wicked, ‘Wicked one, you will surely die,’ but you do not speak out to warn him about his way, that wicked person will die for his iniquity, yet I will hold you responsible for his blood. 9 But if you warn a wicked person to turn from his way and he doesn’t turn from it, he will die for his iniquity, but you will have rescued yourself.”* (Ezekiel 33:8-9)
* **Now, more than ever, we need to have a sense of urgency to share the gospel with as many people as we possibly can.**
* **You and I are not responsible for how people respond to the truth of the gospel, but we *are* responsible for sharing that truth with others who don’t know.**
* *“A person should think of us in this way: as servants of Christ and managers of the mysteries of God. 2 In this regard, it is required that managers be found faithful.”* (1 Corinthians 4:1-2)
* *“Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the Lord’s work, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”* (1 Corinthians 15:58)
* ***How are you doing at sharing the gospel with others?***

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE SHOULD BE CHARACTERIZED BY \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* *“I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. 34 You yourselves know that I worked with my own hands to support myself and those who are with me. 35 In every way I’ve shown you that it is necessary to help the weak by laboring like this and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because He said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:33-35)
* **“In God’s economy you will be more blessed if you’re a spiritual conduit rather than a spiritual cul-de-sac.” – Dr. Tony Evans**
* *“One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor. 25 A generous person will be enriched, and the one who gives a drink of water will receive water.”* (Proverbs 11:24-25)
* **As God blesses us, it is not just so we can increase our standard of living, but to also increase our level of giving.**
* *“Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.”* (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
* ***How are you doing at being generous to the Lord’s work and to others?***

\*\***CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION ON BACK\*\***

**CONNECT GROUP DISCUSSION**

**ICE-BREAKER:** What is something you accomplished that took a lot of effort but it was worth it?

**START THINKING (Observation):**

* What does Acts 20:1-38 teach us about God/The Holy Spirit?
* What characterized Paul’s ministry as he revisited Christians in towns where he previously preached the gospel? (see vss. 1-2)
* Why did Paul emphasize his humility in verse 19?
* What were the primary components of Paul’s message when traveled on his missionary journeys? (see vss. 20-21 and 26-27)
* How did Paul describe the Christian life in regard to money and possessions? (see vss. 33-35)

**DIGGING DEEPER (Understanding and Application):**

* Why do you think so many people today are quick to criticize while being slow to encourage? How should Christians be different?
* How are you doing at embracing humility and recognizing that God gives you everything you have including redemption and life? What can help keep you humble?
* Do you have a sense of urgency in sharing the gospel with others? Why or why not?
* How would you define generosity?
* Why is it important to be generous to the Lord’s work/His Church? How are you doing at being generous to the Lord’s work and to others?
* What will you do differently based on this study?

**LOVING OUTWARD**

* Who do I you need to share Jesus with this week? Or, who do you need to have a follow-up conversation about Jesus with?
* Who are you inviting/bringing to church next week?