

“A Dramatic Interruption”

ACTS 20:1-12



“A Dramatic Interruption” – Acts 20:1-12

I. The First Day of the Week



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I. The First Day of the Week

1. For some...

“A Dramatic Interruption” – Acts 20:1-12

I. The First Day of the Week

1. For some...

2. The early Church

“A Dramatic Interruption” – Acts 20:1-12

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II. Fellowship

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1. True bonding

“A Dramatic Interruption” – Acts 20:1-12

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II. Fellowship

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2. Unity

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III. The Word Preached

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III. The Word Preached

1. Is still God's main method of reaching souls

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1. Evidenced by the interruption
2. Evidenced in the life of Paul

A Dramatic Interruption

Acts 20:1-12, Sunday AM, October 23, 2022

Prelude – Scripture: Acts 20:1-12 After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples, and when he had exhorted them and taken his leave of them, he left to go to Macedonia. ² When he had gone through those districts and had given them much exhortation, he came to Greece. ³ And there he spent three months, and when a plot was formed against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ And he was accompanied by Sopater of Berea, the son of Pyrrhus, and by Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. ⁵ But these had gone on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas. ⁶ We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days. ⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul began talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. ⁹ And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, "Do not be troubled, for his life is in him." ¹¹ When he had gone back up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. ¹² They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted.

Ephesus--visited for a short time on Paul's second missionary journey. Though there were those there hungry for more, Paul moved on. Now, on his third missionary journey, he comes to Ephesus and stays for some time. After upheaval in the synagogue, Paul has fruitful ministry in the school of Tyrannus. For some two years, Paul taught, disciplined, and earned a living with what result? Our passage says **the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified**. How? Our passage says **the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing**. What does THIS look like? Faces, personalities, cultural backgrounds and ties are recognizable, but their focus was different. They lived focused on Jesus. Why? He is precious because He is the way to peace, life, love, and service with God. **Value changes focus which changes priorities effecting time, money, and activity.** THIS is not good for what USED to be valued nor for those who made a living or got their reputation from those former values. Demetrius the silversmith has had enough and spreads his disgust, first to the other tradesmen carrying out the work required for the religion of Artemis and the other gods. Not only are we losing money, but the goddess is dishonored—the world as we know it is being turned upside down! Improperly handling someone's valuables speaks of injustice, and the resulting growing rage spilled to all who would listen, ending with a filled theater chanting "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" Only after the town clerk warned of trouble with Rome did the crowd quiet down and listen to his counsel on how to properly deal with their issues. NOW, what do you do as a young believer in the church of Ephesus? You worship the God who is over even the fury of man and whose work continues in and through the chaos. And so, our passage begins, **"After the uproar had ceased, Paul sent for the disciples."** Paul doesn't slink into the shadows, but acknowledges that the work of God would continue through these disciples. So before he leaves, he exhorts them (gives direction, warns, challenges), then says goodbye for now, continues to the next place, and does the same thing in Macedonia—exhorts the disciples. But this exhortation does not merely make Paul's words large, he called them to listen to the One he listened to—remember? The word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing. Are you listening and following the word of the Lord? Are you on the Lord's side?

*Hymn #484: Who is on the Lord's Side?

This is not a one-time battle. To be on the Lord's side means daily forward movement with life from God. Paul continues to Greece for three months, then, skirts a plot against him by the Jews and heads back through Philippi and on to Troas for 7 days. Gospel living calls for constant thinking, planning, and watching. It's tiring, touches fears and uncertainties, tests relationships, and now it's the Lord's Day. Because Paul intends to leave the next day, the service/the sermon goes late—like midnight late. How do you keep going? Like we've seen from Psalm 27, we must focus on one thing, one desire. Look to the One who called you, loves you, and enables you to live for the kingdom of heaven and the will of God. Look and follow. He cares for His own.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Good Shepherd of My Soul *Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: In Your Silence Scripture: Psalm 139

For the choir director. A Psalm of David. ¹ O LORD, You have searched me and known me. ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar. ³ You scrutinize my path and my lying down, And are intimately acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before there is a word on my tongue, Behold, O LORD, You know it all. ⁵ You have enclosed me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is too high, I cannot attain to it. ⁷ Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, You are there. ⁹ If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, ¹⁰ Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me. ¹¹ If I say, "Surely the darkness will overwhelm me, And the light around me will be night," ¹² Even the darkness is not dark to You, And the night is as bright as the day. Darkness and light are alike to You. ¹³ For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. ¹⁴ I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. ¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; ¹⁶ Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written The days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them. ¹⁷ How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How vast is the sum of them! ¹⁸ If I should count them, they would outnumber the sand. When I awake, I am still with You. ¹⁹ O that You would slay the wicked, O God; Depart from me, therefore, men of bloodshed. ²⁰ For they speak against You wickedly, And Your enemies take Your name in vain. ²¹ Do I not hate those who hate You, O LORD? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? ²² I hate them with the utmost hatred; They have become my enemies. ²³ Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; ²⁴ And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way.

Offering: *Doxology:

Be seated. Many lamps, sitting in the windowsill, third floor, kept talking, midnight, deep sleep—it's not going to be good. He fell! Died. Tragedy. When is the right time for tragedy? Definitely not when you are seeking to "do right"—giving value to God's Word, honoring those teaching and leading—perhaps a long day at work. Now, dead. You know how this one ends, so it is easy to miss the lesson. Whether in times of tragedy or periods of darkness—what do you do when your faith is tested, when it is shaken? What does it look like to love God in His silence and trust Him "in the dark"? Start by remember that God is not like us as we were reminded in Psalm 139—even the darkness is not dark to God and God's thoughts are precious toward His own even when ours aren't toward Him. Don't waste times of darkness on yourself. Look to Him! You think the tragedy is bad—what is worse is if you don't have fellowship with God, either because you are not His OR because your sin has broken that fellowship. Faith lived from our side includes periods when you feel you can't make it—the battle will be ignoring exits that seem more livable, that seem to be light, but are NOT with Christ. God is everywhere as we read in Psalm 139, including the depths of woe Luther wrote about in this song from Psalm 130. Walk WITH God through the darkness and value the right things.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): From Depths of Woe

Our passage ends with a miracle—an unexpected, supernatural result. Do you leave room for the unexpected OR is what you see ALL there is? Be careful of thinking that if “the miracle” won’t happen for you in the same way, God is not good/kind. PRAISE the Lord for saving Eutychus and giving him more time for life and service! Praise God for present opportunities God has for you to live, worship, and serve Him, and be thankful that when His time for you is finished, those saved will go home with Him and be rewarded for faithful service. Worship the grace of God in His care for His own.

***Hymn #44: Children of the Heavenly Father**

Message: A Dramatic Introduction Acts 20:1-12

***Hymn #395: Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord Prayer**