

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 42: A Final Farewell

Acts 20:13-21

- **Verse 13** – Sort of a suburb of the ancient metropolis of Troas was Assos across an isthmus of about 20 miles or so.
 - Luke and the others sail around the isthmus which was about 40 miles.
 - **Verses 14-15** – Getting a flavor for how ocean travel went in these days = 50-60 miles per day rarely very far from the coast and often pulling into port for the night.
 - We have the island of Samos to thank for the Pythagorean theorem because Pythagoras was born there.
 - **Verses 16-17** – Paul had already spent 2 ½ years in Ephesus and would be very delayed if he took the time to tell the entire church goodbye one more time.
 - Back in verse 6 they had arrived in Troas after Unleavened Bread and Paul was trying to make it to Jerusalem by Pentecost which gave him exactly 50 days to cross the Mediterranean and travel up to Jerusalem.
 - He stops in Miletus which was directly on the coast south of Ephesus and asks the elders (pastors or overseers of the different churches)
 - The church at Ephesus figures very prominent in the New Testament in addition to acts: 2 ½ chapters in Acts concern it; Book of Ephesians; written to there is I, II Timothy; Letter to Ephesus in Revelation 2.
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- **Verses 18-19** – Paul is actually just defending his ministry because many by this time are slandering him.
 - Be so careful about calling anyone's character into question or any minister or ministry. The devil loves to divide us, and he does this by playing on our sense of suspicion.
 - Remember the book of Proverbs describes a wise man as one who is very careful with and therefore says few things in comparison to a fool who runs at the mouth.
 - If you have verbal diarrhea, take a healthy dose of Proverbs!!!
 - Remember this rule of thumb: If someone had to tell you about it, it is a rumor and deserves none of your time or thought.
 - **Verse 20** – Over in verse 32 he leaves them with the Word and here he says he started and maintained a ministry of the Word.
 - Always the sufficiency of the Word of God.
 - You don't need any of those books!! (Not fully so because the gifts of teaching, preaching, instruction are gifts of the Spirit that are certainly needed by the church).
 - If there is a teaching or preaching or instruction which is helpful for life it merely the application and explanation of the Word of God.
 - **II Timothy 3:16-17** – It is the source of all that is good and helpful.
 - Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free."

KNOW THE TRUTH!!
