

ACTS 20:13-37

BACKGROUND

In last week's passage, Paul dropped off Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus to begin the work of evangelism and church planting. Paul then proceeded to make his way to Jerusalem, then up to Antioch, then he cut through the middle of modern day Turkey to visit and encourage some of the churches that he had planted on a previous missionary journey. Then in chapter 19 he traveled to Ephesus and spent 3 years preaching the gospel and building the church while deepening relationships with the believers there. He then visited a few more of the churches that he planted and now he and his crew are circling back around and making one last visit to the Elders/leaders of the Ephesian church.

PRAY

PLEASE READ ACTS 20:13-37

SHARE OBSERVATIONS (Who? What? When? Where? Repeating words, phrases, & themes?)

QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe the relationship between Paul and the Ephesian elders? What insight does this give us about relationships in the local church in general and the connection between mission & friendship?
2. In this passage, what are some ways that we see the eternal weightiness of *gospel ministry* in the local church? In what ways does this challenge your thinking and outlook?
3. How does Paul understand leadership in the local church? How does this compare and contrast with how leadership is typically understood in the workplace? What accounts for these similarities and differences?
4. How can we pray in response to this passage?
5. What are some other things we can be praying for each other about?