

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **January 24, 2021** sermon, "After the uproar ceased." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 20:1-16) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN GOD CHANGES THE ITINERARY OF YOUR LIFE, KEEP MULTIPLYING FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST, . . .

1. Noting the vital encouragement we need to provide. (1-6)
 - a. Who has the authority to change the itinerary?
 - i. God has all the authority over your life.
 - ii. God often changes the itinerary of your life without warning.
 - b. When Paul's life is changed with pain (uproar), *he intentionally encourages others* . . .
 - i. To persist in their faithfulness to Jesus Christ (gospel purpose).
 - ii. Through unceasing geographic changes and travel (gracious strength).
 - iii. Through diverse cultural backgrounds (strong relationships).
 - c. If God is for you, who can be against you? No one is stronger than God.
2. The unexpected events we need to manage. (7-12)
 - a. A long sermon on a Sunday night has Eutychus falling asleep and falling from a window.
 - b. Paul focuses on multiplying committed followers of Jesus.
3. The alternative strategies we need to consider. (13-16)
 - a. Methods are many, principles are few. Methods always change, principles never do.
 - b. Paul now travels by sea (rather than foot), continuing his life's purpose: discipleship.
 - i. Be flexible and humble with the way you reach out to others. Don't be rigid.
 - ii. Be focused and committed to the Word and the proclamation of Christ alone.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Paul experienced uproar, danger and unchosen changes to his plans. How do you relate to Paul? How have these months produced uproar? Unchosen changes to your plans? Danger? How does the answer to the question, "Who is in charge of your itinerary?" help you? Discuss: God uses uproar to further the gospel.
2. Based on #1, above: In the midst of these real challenges, Paul displayed strength which came from above. How have you experienced a strength from God (not merely of yourself) to believe God, persist in mission and treasure Jesus? If not, how can we pray for you?
3. Based on #1, above: In the midst of chaos, there are no words of discouragement, complaint or disgust. In fact, Paul gathered people, chose his words purposefully and set out to encourage other believers. If Paul is our example, how are you doing in your use of words during COVID and heated elections? How can you improve at intentionally encouraging others?
4. Based on #3, above: How have your methods to reach people for Jesus had to change during COVID restrictions? Have you joyfully and intentionally embraced the changes to your itinerary that God has brought? How have you engaged in the war against your flesh to grow complacent in quarantine? How have you intentionally changed your method to reach out to neighbors?