

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## *Acts Series*

These questions are for the **January 31, 2021** sermon, "The Shaping of Leaders, Part 1." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 20:17-24) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER HOW TO EQUIP OTHERS FOR BIBLICALLY BASED LEADERSHIP, NOTE, . . .

1. The example that needs to be set. (17-21)
  - a. One of Paul's main tasks: to hand the baton of leadership to the Ephesian elders.
    - i. He takes initiative to call them to himself in Miletus.
    - ii. He reminds them about his own example of serving the Lord among them.
  - b. He uses a "Review/Preview" approach. He looks back and then ahead.
    - i. Three couplets: public/private; to the Jews/Greeks; teaching repentance/faith.
    - ii. Paul does not shrink from declaring the gospel of the grace of God.
2. The risks that need to be taken. (22-23)
  - a. Risk involves committing to a specific task even when safety and outcome are uncertain.
  - b. Paul is taking financial gifts to Jerusalem, attempting to improve Jew/Greek relations.
    - i. The Holy Spirit has shown him that imprisonment and affliction await him.
    - ii. There will be moments when you must commit to move forward faithfully . . .
    - iii. with no certainty of a safe or positive outcome.
3. The gospel that needs to be proclaimed. (24)
  - a. Testify to the gospel of the grace of God.
    - i. When it's relatively safe, and when it may cost you your life.
    - ii. Proclaim it. Teach it. Savor it. And entrust it to others.
  - b. Not "if" your life is fleeting, but because your life is fleeting, and his gospel is glorious.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Have you had the example of a faithful mentor/example in your life? How did that person take initiative in your life, especially with regard to proclaiming the gospel? How did that person endure affliction?
2. Based on #1, above: Have you been a mentor/example for another believer? Think about your relationship with your spouse and kids, first, and your closest friends. In what ways are you focused and intentional in taking initiative in calling them to follow your example? What personality quirks in you may limit your effectiveness in one-on-one leadership?
3. Based on #1, above: Note the "review/preview" approach which is organized around three categories of effective gospel proclamations:
  - INTEGRITY: Wholeness in private and in public.
  - NO PARTIALITY: Overcoming obstacles to proclaim the gospel to Jew and Greek.
  - BALANCE: Emphasizing both repentance and faith.
4. Based on #2, above: We are not called to safety or comfort. Our goal is singular: make committed followers of Jesus (even when it is dangerous and risky). How does this effect your weekend? Your initiative-taking? The focus of your prayer life? Do you take risks to share the gospel of the grace of God?