



The Power of Example

The Book of Acts

Midweek Sermon

Pastor Carl Toti

September 9, 2020

**"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."
- Albert Schweitzer**

There were three parts to Paul's farewell message to the Ephesian Elders:

First, he reviewed the past (Acts 20:18-20).

Second, he discussed the present (Acts 20:21-27).

Third, he spoke about the future (Acts 20:28-35).

Paul Spoke Faithfully

Acts 20:17-20 (ESV)

17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. 18 And when they came to him, he said to them: "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

Important Context

- Paul is ending his third missionary journey.
- Jerusalem is his destination.
- Ephesus is only a few miles away, and a messenger is sent to the elders of the Church in that city requesting a final farewell meeting with Paul.
- The invitation is enthusiastically accepted.

PAUL'S EXAMPLE

1. _____: "serving the Lord" (verse 19)

Paul was a joyful and voluntary slave of Jesus Christ. A surrendered life to Christ results in "perfect freedom."

2. _____: "with all humility" (verse 19)

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." —C.S. Lewis

The possessors of great ability be warned.

Overachieving, abundantly talented people are those most susceptible to pride.

The possessors of great blessings be warned.

Great success is like a full cup, it is hard to hold it with a steady hand.

The possessors of great spiritual gifts be warned.

Too much time in the sunlight can cause sunstroke.

3. _____: "and with many tears" (verse 19)

True manliness has a tough side and a tender side.

4. _____: "how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable" (verse 20)

"Silence in the face of evil is itself evil. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act."

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1906-1945

ANSWERS:

1. LOYAL

2. HUMBLE

3. COMPASSIONATE

4. FAITHFUL