

Acts: Sleeping through a Sermon

(Acts 20:1-12)

Revisiting Old Friends (v. 1-3a)

- After the riot in Ephesus, Paul gathers the Church in the area to encourage them
 - Encouragement was one of the central elements of Paul's ministry to the Church (see v. 1, 2, 12)
- He left Asia Minor and returned to the congregations throughout Macedonia that he had helped establish to encourage them as well
- This trip would include Paul revisiting Thessalonica, Philippi, Berea, and Corinth
 - He wrote the letter to the Romans while wintering in Corinth (c. AD 56-57)

The Trip to Troas (v. 3b-6)

- Because of a plot against him, Paul traveled back through Macedonia, sailing from Philippi to Troas
 - His traveling companions represent disciples from the various locations he spent time, both in Europe & Asia

A Long Talk (v. 7-12)

- Paul & company arrive back in the port of Troas in Asia
- After a week in town, they gathered on a Sunday evening for fellowship & encouragement with their fellow Christians
- Paul preached until midnight because he knew that they had to leave the next day
- One of the young men listening was named Eutychus, which means "fortunate"
 - He fell asleep in a window and fell 3 stories to his death
- Paul stopped preaching and went down to check on the young man
 - He threw himself upon Eutychus, presumably praying for him
 - Like the stories of Elijah & Elisha (1 Ki. 17:21–23; 2 Ki. 4:32–34)
- He then assures everyone that the boy is alive!
 - Though not explicitly stated, it is implied that God resurrected Eutychus
 - Much like Peter & Tabitha (Acts 9:36-42)
- Paul ate something and continued preaching until dawn
- Both the preaching and the miracle acted as means of encouraging the Church

So What?

- How are doing at encouraging one another?
- Do we have a commitment to hearing from the Lord and fellowshiping with one another like the early Church did?

Meditation Verse: *1 Thessalonians 5:11*