



The Heart of a Disciple:
*How Relationships
Change Ministry*

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Acts 20:13-21

Sermon Notes

Acts 20:13–21 (ESV)

¹³But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene. ¹⁵And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus. ¹⁶For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. ¹⁷Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

¹⁸And 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, ¹⁹serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;

²⁰how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

²¹testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

July 27, 2025

(Answer key located on next page)

I. Relationships Require Persistent Pursuit with Strategic Planning (Acts 20:13-17).

Key Insight: Paul made a deliberate decision to bypass _____ while summoning the church _____ to meet him in Miletus.

This Week's Challenge:

- **Monday:** Text someone you haven't spoken to in a _____.
- **Wednesday:** Schedule a _____-minute coffee meeting.
- **Friday:** Ask one spiritual question: "How can I _____ for you?"

II. Relationships Demand Perseverance Through Trials with Humility (Acts 20:18-19).

Paul served "with all _____ and with _____ and with _____."

Key Truth: When Christ captures your heart, you're no longer serving based on _____ or circumstances—you're serving because of who you are in _____.

Paul's Response to Trials:

- Choose to become _____ or become _____

This Week's Action Steps:

1. Identify one current _____ and ask God how He wants to use it.
2. When tempted to lash out, choose _____ instead.
3. Serve someone even when you don't _____ like it.

III. Relationships Multiply Through Faithful Gospel Proclamation (Acts 20:20-21).

Paul "did not _____ from declaring to you anything that was _____."

Paul's Dual Strategy: He taught " _____ and from _____ to _____"

The Complete Gospel Message:

- **Repentance:** A complete change of _____.
- **Faith in Jesus Christ:** Total _____ and reliance upon Jesus as both Savior and _____.

This Week's Multiplication Strategy:

- Name _____ people who need to hear the full gospel.
- Post one _____ verse with personal commentary on social media by Tuesday.
- Text one _____ friend by Thursday for lunch.
- Don't shrink back—tell the _____ truth about God's love AND our need to _____.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

What is one relationship in your life that needs more intentional investment? How has Christ's love for you changed the way you love others?

COMMITMENT:

This week, I commit to:

KEY VERSE TO REMEMBER:

Acts 20:20-21 - "I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable... testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Answer Key

I. Relationships Require Persistent Pursuit with Strategic Planning:

- Ephesus, elders,
- This Week's Challenge: month, 30, pray

II. Relationships Demand Perseverance Through Trials with Humility:

- humility, tears, trials,
- feelings, Christ,
- bitter, better,

Action Steps: trial, humility, feel

III. Relationships Multiply Through Faithful Gospel Proclamation:

- Multiply, Proclamation,
- shrink, profitable,
- publicly, house, house,
- direction
- trust, Lord,
- three, Bible, non-Christian, whole, repent

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins. Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"**

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.
(Romans 10:9-10)

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