

## “Nodding Off in Church”

### Acts 20:1-12, ESV

**INTRODUCTION:** Have you ever slept in church? Be honest! You sit still, you are tired from the week and weekend, the pew is comfortable, the preacher’s voice is hypnotic, and the next thing you know, you are nodding off in church. Hey, no judgment! Today’s text is interesting and relatable. We learn of a young man, by the name of Eutychus, who snoozed during one of Paul’s sermons. What happened? What can we learn from this episode in Acts?

#### Mapping Out the Text:

#### 1). Paul’s Ministry Included that of Active Encouragement (v. 1-2).

- v. 1- Paul sent for the disciples and he encouraged them.
- v. 2- Then, while in Macedonia and Achaia, he encouraged the church.

**Application:** We all need encouragement. Who encourages you? Who do you encourage? Paul was intentional and purposeful about uplifting the early church and her leaders. Serving Jesus can be challenging/difficult.

#### 2). Paul’s Ministry Included That of Intense Opposition (v. 3).

- A plot was made against Paul by the Jewish community in Corinth. They hated Paul. Why?
- The humiliating debacle before Gallio
  - The remarkable conversions of its two most prominent leaders- **Crispus** and **Sosthenes**.
  - This plot most likely included an effort to murder Paul during his voyage to Palestine.
  - As a result, Paul canceled his plans to sail from Greece to Syria.

**Application:** It is likely that the more intensely you follow Jesus, it will **cost** you something. What? I cannot possibly know for you. It will surely vary for each of us.

#### 3). Paul’s Ministry Included Acts of the Supernatural (v. 7-12).

- v. 7- On the Lord’s Day, they broke bread and Paul preached/taught until midnight.
- v. 8- Many lamps were in the upper room of this home giving off heat and fumes.
- v. 9- A young man named Eutychus (“fortunate”), sitting at the window, fell into a deep sleep. (He was young (7-14). The hour was late. The room was crowded. The speech was long.)
- v. 9- Overcome by sleep, he fell out of the window from the third story and was killed!! Goodness.
- v. 10- Paul went down bent over him and restored his life. WOW!!!
- v. 11- Paul breaks bread with the church, continues **speaking with them** a long while, until daybreak, and then departs.
- v. 12- They took **Eutychus** away, alive, and they were greatly comforted by this miracle.

**Application:** Believers gladly listened to Paul preach, even for an extended period of time. When a resurrection occurs (there are seven such resurrections in the Bible--two in the OT and five in the NT), God Himself confirms the testimony of His Word. Does hearing the Word of God frequently bring joy to your heart? If you find yourself nodding off in church, why? Tired? Bored? Health issue? To what extent do you prepare your heart to engage in worship on the Lord’s Day? Good question...