

# Acts

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## Part 50 – “Resurrection Fellowship”

### Acts 20:1-12

- 9/11 changed everything – airports, going to sports events, how we view our country, how we view the world, how we view our government...
- Genesis 3 changed everything. Because of sin, death entered the world.
- The resurrection of Jesus is the counterpoint to Genesis 3. Death is overcome. If a dead man really lived and continues to live, it changes everything. Even more than that, if that man took upon Himself all the sin and death of His people and rose again, we, His people, must be encouraged, shaped, and fundamentally changed by His resurrection.

<b>Main Idea:</b> The resurrection of Christ changes everything.
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### **Because the resurrection is true...the believers were able to hold fast in the face of an angry mob. (v.1-2)**

- This is in direct opposition to how the crowd came together to cheer on Artemis. The contrast between the pagan crowd and the resurrection fellowship is stark. After Paul and the other Christians' lives were threatened, Paul turns around and encourages them.
- This shows Paul's identity. After a great trauma, Paul encourages the saints in the Gospel.
  - See Paul's pastoral heart and deep love for both the Gospel and the people. He loves the people so much that he holds up his plans to leave just to encourage them.
- This also shows how the community of believers in Ephesus believed in the resurrection.
  - They have to stay and be a church when Paul leaves.
  - Their courage comes by way of the resurrection.
- *Application:* When we truly stand for the Gospel, we must be ready for the “deaths” that may come – death of career advancement, death of friendships, death of Facebook friendship, death of sports involvement...
- Purpose of the travel was to take up a collection for Jerusalem.
- His goal seems to be building up the body through encouragement.
  - Exhortation and encouragement are key to preaching.

### **Because the resurrection is true...the believers were able to stand fast against evil schemes. (v. 3)**

- The Gospel is an equal opportunity offender. It offends the Greeks as we saw in chapter 19 and here we find it offending the Jews.
  - It is offensive because it confronts our idols whether they be man-made idols or man-made rules built up around God.
  - *Application:* This is hard for us who want to think, “If we're nice, kind, encouraging people who only share good news, then our culture will like us.”

### **Because the resurrection is true...the believers were able to hold together in fellowship. (v. 4)**

- Paul is powerful in Christ, but does not move without community.

- These were representatives of the different regions that were giving to the church in Jerusalem. They probably were with Paul for protection and accountability.
  - *Application:* If Paul needed this kind of fellowship, don't you?
- These men do the work of the Gospel. The greatest spread of the Gospel comes not by superstar preachers, but by ordinary people ordinarily sharing the extraordinary Gospel. It is not the preacher who does the work of the Kingdom; it is the people of God together who do the work of the Kingdom.

**Because the resurrection is true...the believers worshiped on the first day of the week.**

(v. 5-7)

- Remember what Passover was and what it meant.
- They worshipped on resurrection Sunday.

**Because the resurrection is true...Eutychus was raised from the dead. (v. 8-10)**

- Eutychus did a good thing. He was a sleepy young man trying to take in all that was being preached and discussed. It wasn't that Paul was boring or talking too long. There was a dialogue going on. Eutychus presumably wanted to hear the whole thing so he goes to sit where it's cooler and there's fresh air, but still falls asleep.
  - *Application:* Do the hard work of listening to sermons and teaching.
- "Jesus' resurrection power flowed through his servant, and Paul restored the boy alive to those who loved him, just as Jesus himself had raised and returned a young man to his mourning mother (Luke 7:11-15)." – *Let's Study Acts*, Dennis E. Johnson
- "Paul is in the same line of life-giving messengers of God, a line which included Elijah and Elisha." – *Teaching Acts*, David Cook
  - Elijah & the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:17-24), Elisha & the Shunammite woman (2 Kings 4:32-36), Jesus & the widow (Luke 7:11-17), Jesus & Jairus (Luke 8:49-56), Peter & Dorcas (Acts 9:39-42)
- Once again this confirms Paul's apostleship. Luke seems to be going to great lengths to draw the connections between Peter and Paul.
  - Pentecost – Peter, Acts 2:4; Paul, Acts 19:6
  - Extraordinary miracles – Peter, Acts 5:15; Paul, Acts 19:12
  - Raising the dead – Peter, Acts 9:39-42; Paul, Acts 20:10

**Because the resurrection is true...the believers celebrated. (v. 11-12)**

- Paul goes up and breaks "the" bread meaning communion.
  - Communion was so important that it was the high point of the worship service. Eutychus being raised was wonderful, but it only pointed toward the one true resurrection celebrated in the Lord's Supper.
- "Not a little comforted" could also be rendered "not a little encouraged," drawing out the theme of encouragement that runs throughout this passage.
- "Although threats loomed on the horizon for the apostle, his concern was that fellow Christians stand fast in their hope, resting on Christ's sufficiency. Do you share his selfless focus on others' growth in Christ?" - *Let's Study Acts*, Dennis E. Johnson

**Because the resurrection is true...we have hope.**

- Though the raising of the dead is a tremendous miracle, still Eutychus eventually died. Lazarus died. Jairus' daughter died. Jesus did not die. All the others powerfully point to the final, full resurrection when we will not die.
  - Even better than simply being alive, Jesus lives within us! We sit here as those in whom the resurrected Jesus lives.