

Acts of the Apostles

42 – Friendship and a Guy Named Eutychus

Acts 20.1-16

Friendship

- Gaius – seized (with Aristarchus) in Ephesian riot (19), from Derbe, baptized by Paul in Corinth (1 Cor 1, Acts 18), hosted Paul at his house (Rom 16.23)
- Aristarchus seized (with Gaius) in Ephesian riot (19), accompanied Paul sailing to Rome (Acts 27), called a fellow-prisoner and co-laborer (Col. 4.10, Phil 24), tradition held martyred by Nero
- Trophimus – Gentile who accompanies Paul to Jerusalem, stays close enough for others to assume he violated the temple (Acts 21), left in Miletus because of illness later
- Tychicus – Gentile who accompanies Paul to Jerusalem, carries letter to Colossae (called “beloved brother, faithful minister, fellow servant”), later sent to Ephesus (possibly with the letter to Ephesians), sent to Crete to help Titus (all in 2 Tim / Titus)

Friends shape you

- “You are the sum of the books you read and the friends you have”
- Lonely people are unshaped – and it’s detrimental physically and spiritually (Prov. 18.1, 27.17)
 - “Loneliness has the same impact on mortality as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, making it even more dangerous than obesity,” he said in releasing the report. – Douglas Nemecek, MD (CMO, Cigna)
 - High blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, a weakened immune system, anxiety, depression, cognitive decline, Alzheimer’s disease, and even death. – NIH report

Friends share with you

- Houses – missions – lives
- “Friendship arises out of mere Companionship when two or more of the companions discover that they have in common some insight or interest or even taste which the others do not share and which, till that moment, each believed to be his own unique treasure (or burden). The typical expression of opening Friendship would be something like, “What? You too? I thought I was the only one.” Lewis, Four Loves
- “What draws people to be friends is that they see the same truth. They share it.”
- At home, besides being Peter or Jane, we also bear a general character; husband or wife, brother or sister, chief, colleague, or subordinate. Not among our Friends. It is an affair of disentangled, or stripped, minds. Eros will have naked bodies; Friendship naked personalities.
- Hence (if you will not misunderstand me) the exquisite arbitrariness and irresponsibility of this love. I have no duty to be anyone’s Friend and no man in the world has a duty to be mine. No claims, no shadow of necessity. Friendship is unnecessary, like philosophy,

like art, like the universe itself... It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things which give value to survival.

Friends stick with you

- They see your imperfections and still receive you, accept you, and can bless you
- They walk with you through trials / fire (Prov. 18.24)

Eutychus

What happened?

- He worked hard, got sleepy in the heavy air, and fell out of the window and died (per Luke the physician)

What do we learn?

- The Word is primary for the church

Acts 2:41 (ESV)

⁴¹So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Acts 4:4 (ESV)

⁴But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand.

Acts 6:4 (ESV)

⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

Acts 8:4 (ESV)

⁴Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.

Acts 10:36 (ESV)

³⁶As for the word that he sent to Israel, preaching good news of peace through Jesus Christ (he is Lord of all),

Acts 11:1 (ESV)

¹¹Now the apostles and the brothers who were throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.

Acts 12:24 (ESV)

²⁴But the word of God increased and multiplied.

Acts 13:5 (ESV)

⁵When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews. And they had John to assist them.

Acts 14:25 (ESV)

²⁵And when they had spoken the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia,

Acts 15:7 (ESV)

⁷And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, “Brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15:35 (ESV)

³⁵ But Paul and Barnabas remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

Acts 16:32 (ESV)

³² And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.

Acts 17:11 (ESV)

¹¹ Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Acts 18:11 (ESV)

¹¹ And he stayed a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

Acts 19:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

We see it taught and discussed throughout the book of Acts – main actors always pointing to the Word (or in some cases disobeying it and the consequences that flow from that)

- Miracles happen
 - We don't seek miracles, they find us
 - We seek God and trust Him to handle it better than we can
 - If we seek miracles, we are 1-2 steps away from making God our tool or toy
 - Eutychus is a picture for us of what Xty is
 - Not asking the frail and faltering to be less so, or humans to be super-human, or bad people to be good – we want to see dead people live
 - Regeneration -> commitment -> forgiveness -> indwelling -> obedience