

## The Church Extended: People of Encouragement

Acts 20:1–12

*In this passage, Paul demonstrates a ministry of encouragement to churches throughout Asia Minor. Even in the face of persecution, difficulty, and exhaustion, he models for us the importance of going out of our way to encourage one another.*

**Main Idea:** We are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to find ways to \_\_\_\_\_ one another through all circumstances.

*Scene 1: An Overview of a Ministry of Encouragement (vv. 1–6)*

### **I. Encouragement is \_\_\_\_\_ for perseverance, v. 1.**

*Before Paul left the hostile environment at Ephesus, he made sure to encourage the church one last time.*

- a. It \_\_\_\_\_ us for the battle.
- b. It is \_\_\_\_\_ of the price.

### **II. Encouragement \_\_\_\_\_ participation, vv. 2–6.**

*Paul took along at least 7 disciples as he encouraged the churches in Macedonia and Greece, inviting them to participate in ministry.*

- a. It \_\_\_\_\_ us better than anything, vv. 2–3.
- b. It is an \_\_\_\_\_ in the lives of others, v. 4.
- c. It \_\_\_\_\_ when it is modeled, v. 5 (cf. 2 Timothy 2:2).

*Scene 2: A Specific Instance of Encouraging Ministry (vv. 7–12)*

### **III. Encouragement requires \_\_\_\_\_, vv. 7–8.**

*When Paul arrived in Troas, he stayed until the next Sunday when the church would gather so he could worship with them and spend time encouraging them with the Word and work of God.*

- a. It shows you \_\_\_\_\_ people, v. 7.
- b. It proves you \_\_\_\_\_ in God's plan, v. 7.

### **IV. Encouragement requires \_\_\_\_\_, vv. 9–12.**

*When a young boy fell out a window and died, God used Paul to heal the boy, which greatly encouraged this church.*

- a. It is most \_\_\_\_\_ in tragic circumstances, vv. 9–10, 12.
- b. It will require \_\_\_\_\_, v. 11.

**The Holy Spirit empowers you to encourage others, which empowers them to walk with God.**