

Through Macedonia & Greece / Eutychus Raised From the Dead at Troas



Ice-Breaker

Describe a time when, much to your embarrassment, you took a spill or fell "off your rocker."



Scripture Passage

Acts 20:1-12

20 When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said good-by and set out for Macedonia. ²He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, ³where he stayed three months. Because the Jews made a plot against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. ⁴He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. ⁵These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. ⁶But we sailed from Philippi after the Feast of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

⁷On the first day of the week we came together to break bread. Paul spoke to the people and, because he intended to leave the next day, kept on talking until midnight. ⁸There were many lamps in the upstairs room where we were meeting. ⁹Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. ¹⁰Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!" ¹¹Then he went upstairs again and broke bread and ate. After talking until daylight, he left. ¹²The people took the young man home alive and were greatly comforted.



Bible Study

1. One reason for this trip was to collect money for Christians in Judea (see Romans 15:25-29). Why then would Paul want companions for this task (see 2 Corinthians 8:16-23; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4)? Why else might Paul want to present these Gentiles to the church in Jerusalem (see ch. 15)?

2. What can you learn about Paul and the church in Troas from this lengthy meeting?



Reference Notes

20:3 Although sailing from Corinth to Jerusalem would have been the natural route to take, a plot by some opponents led Paul to change his plans and travel back by land through Macedonia.

20:4 Although Luke does not say why Paul was accompanied by so many men from such different areas, it must be remembered that at this time he was carrying with him the collection he had gathered for the church in Jerusalem from the churches in Macedonia, Achaia, and, undoubtedly, Asia (see Romans 15:25-26; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 9:2). First Corinthians 16:3 indicates some men from Corinth accompanied him as well. These men would serve both as

protection for Paul against robbers and as a means of accountability to their home churches that Paul had indeed delivered the offering as promised (2 Corinthians 8:19-21). **Sopater**. This may be a variant spelling of Sosipater, who was a relative of Paul's (Romans 16:21). **Aristarchus. Secundus**. Nothing more is known of this man. **Gaius**. Since Derbe is in Galatia, this may be a different Gaius than the one mentioned in Acts 19:29. **Tychicus**. A faithful courier for Paul later on (Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7; 2 Timothy 4:12; Titus 3:12). **Trophimus**. A resident of Ephesus who became the unwitting cause of Paul's imprisonment in Jerusalem (Acts 21:29; 2 Timothy 4:20).

20:5 waited for us. Luke rejoined Paul at this point, having remained behind in Philippi after Paul's original visit there (Acts 16) about five to six years before.

20:6 the Feast of Unleavened Bread. That is Passover, celebrated in April.

20:7-12 Twice before in Acts Luke has shown an example of how Peter's miracles were matched by those of Paul (the miraculous healingsÑ5:15-16 and 19:11-12; the deliverances from jailÑ12:1ff and 16:25ff). Here, Peter's raising Tabitha to life (9:36-41) is matched by Paul's raising of Eutychus.

20:7 the first day of the week. Since Luke typically uses the Roman time system, this meeting probably occurred on a Sunday evening. Meetings were held in the evenings because Sunday, like every day, was a work day for slaves (who made up a large percentage of the believersÑEphesians 6:5). This also may have contributed to Eutychus' tiredness. break bread. The service of the Lord's Supper was a weekly occasion for the early Christians. The reference to eating in verse 11 may also refer to the meal (the Love Feast) that in the early church accompanied the Lord's Supper (Jude 12). kept on talking until midnight. Since this was Paul's last opportunity in the area, he spoke at length even by Luke's standards!

20:8 There were many lamps. These would have been oil lamps, giving off fumes that would add to a sense of drowsiness.

20:9 Seated in a window. Windows were, of course, without glass, but were merely large openings with shutters. the third story. Buildings could rise as high as 10 stories in Rome at this time.

Caring Time

1. Paul's companions protect him from anyone accusing him of misusing funds. How could churches and other ministries today be helped by such accountability? How would this enhance outsiders' opinions of Christian integrity?
2. Are you at all related to Eutychus: Do sermons put you to sleep? Or are you wide awake spiritually? How can you keep from falling flat?
3. What is the role of miracles in God's purposes today?