

Whole Counsel

Acts 20

1. The Traits of a Godly Disciple Maker (Acts 20:17-24)

¹⁷ From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. ¹⁸ When they arrived, he said to them: “You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. ¹⁹ I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. ²⁰ You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. ²¹ I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus ... I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

The way they live.

Their humility and tears.

Bold teaching calling for repentance and faith.

Radical commitment to the mission of sharing the Gospel.

2. A Focus When Discipling Elders (Acts 20:25-26)

²⁵ “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶ Therefore, I declare to you today that I am innocent of the blood of any of you. ²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.

Radical Commitment to the whole counsel of God.

4. The Role of Disciplined Elders (Acts 20:28)

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

The elders (Acts 20:17) – the older, wise, godly, appointed permanent leaders of the church.

They are overseers – **Bishops**-who watch over the church.

They are shepherds – **Pastors**-who protect and guide the church.

5. The Commitment of Godly Elders (Acts 20:29-38)

²⁹ I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears. ³² “Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified ... ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ”³⁶ When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷ They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. ³⁸ What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.

Watch out among yourselves as leaders.

Follow God’s Word.

Live generously.