

Acts 20-21

Paul takes the long road home...

20> 1-3 Notice the constant word "encouragement" "parakleasias"

Setting out for Jerusalem via Greece

v. 4 the community wants to assist Paul (travel alone was dangerous)

7-12 Eutychus gets raised from the dead

*the danger of clergy going on and on

*a resurrection story

*breaking of bread and preaching the Word and breaking the Bread

vv. 13: avoiding Ephesus for obvious reasons

17 Miletus: the city of the birth of philosophy, ie the Milesian School

*the elders from Ephesus are invited too but without their neighbors

*the farewell speech of a dedicated Pastor

This is what every priest should emulate

"I served the Lord with humility

"I did not shrink from telling you what was for your benefit

"I bore witness to Jews and Greeks

*then a series of warnings ff.

Imprisonment and hardship awaits me

I shall not see you again

*"I am not responsible for the blood of any of you

v. 27 - the whole council of God

*keep watch over the whole flock

*wolves will come among you and treason within

*remember what I have done

21

The city of Tyre: ref. Solomon

A bloodbath in the time of Alexander

*visits the disciples at every pause: recall Montgomery

before el Alamain (70 miles from Cairo)

*Agabus binds himself: it is now irrevocable

*the only perfect prayer: "thy will be done"

v. 16: Paul is keeping the precepts of the Law

vow on hair see Nazarite vows in Numbers 6: 1

(Paul had shaved his head at Cenchreae in vow)

V 19 sharing with the priests and people what they had done

V 27 ff. Paul gets mobbed and thrashed on false charges

- *one act of violence often leads to many more
- *the cohort commander: pilus prior (about 480, today at Lt Colonel/battalion 80 men to a century
6 centuries to a cohort/ 10 cohorts to a legion
In short - this is a large mob and an important officer

2. Paul's speech of self defence

- *He starts by playing all his cards: born a Jew, raised in Jerusalem, speaks in Hebrew, loyal to the Torah (Laws) and a persecutor

- *Speaks of dramatic conversion: persecution of Christians is persecution of Christ: this is important for us

- *blinded by the light - blind - an obvious metaphor

- *his conversion is gradual - he does not learn everything at once

- *his vision is restored and he is given the sacraments

- *what makes them all so mad? The appeal to the gentiles

Paul and the Romans - they learn who he is

A citizen cannot be whipped or put to torture

Note the invisible citizenship: you cannot look at a person and tell who is and who is not - this lies behind our Civil War

Compare the two armies Joseph de Castro vs Lee

At the end of the War, Mrs Lee was guarded by black soldiers

A few words on birthright citizenship: two very different conceptions: birthright vs inheritance

XIV Amendment: Section 1 All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.