



Farewell Encouragement

Acts 20:13-38



THE SPEECH



“

**IF YOU LAUGH, YOU
THINK, AND YOU CRY
THAT'S A FULL DAY.
THAT'S A HECK OF
A DAY. YOU DO
THAT SEVEN DAYS
A WEEK, YOU'RE
GOING TO HAVE
SOMETHING SPECIAL.**

– Jim Valvano



DON'T GIVE UP.

DON'T EVER

GIVE UP.

**Jim
Valvano**





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*Paul's Third
Missionary Journey*



Farewell Encouragement

Acts 20:13-38

Elder, Overseer, Pastor

¹⁷ Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the **elders** of the church to come to him.

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you **overseers**, to **care for** the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Be encouraged to be

- ministers of truth, vulnerability, & community. 17-28
- ministers of integrity and care. 28-38

¹⁸ And when they came to him, he said to them: “**You yourselves know how I lived among you** the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia,

³⁴ **You yourselves know** that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.

Be a minister of truth...

²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ²¹ testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be a minister of truth...

²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything ... ²⁶ Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, ²⁷ for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Be a minister of truth, vulnerability ...

¹⁹ serving the Lord with all humility and with **tears** and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;

Be a minister of truth, vulnerability ...

¹⁸ For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Romans 7:18–20

Be a minister of truth, vulnerability ...

⁸For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.

⁹Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. 2 Corinthians 1:8–9

Be a minister of truth, vulnerability ...

³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

Be a minister of truth, vulnerability, & community.

¹⁸ ... “You yourselves know how I lived **among you** the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia,

²⁰ how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from **house to house,**

Be a minister of truth, vulnerability, & community.

³⁷ And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, ³⁸being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again.

Be a minister of integrity ...

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves ...

Be a minister of integrity ...

³² And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. ³³ I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.

Be a minister of integrity ...

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves ...

“I for one am not a self-replenishing spring. My bucket leaks even when it's not pouring. My spirit does not revive on the run without time of unhurried reading and reflection beyond the press of sermon preparation my soul shrinks and the specter of ministerial death rises. Few things frighten me more than the beginnings of barrenness that come from frenzied activity with little spiritual food and meditation.”

John Piper

Be a minister of integrity & care.

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and **to all the flock**, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; ³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Be a minister of integrity & care.

³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

Be a minister of integrity & care.

²⁸ Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, **which he obtained with his own blood.**

Oh, then, let us hear these arguments of Christ, whenever we feel ourselves grow dull and careless: “Did I die for these souls, and will not you look after them? Were they worth My blood, and are they not worth your labor? Did I come down from heaven to earth, ‘to seek and to save that which was lost;’ and will you not go to the next door, or street, or village, to seek them?”

How small is your condescension and labor compared to Mine! I debased Myself to this, but it is your honor to be so employed. Have I done and suffered so much for their salvation, and was I willing to make you a fellow-worker with Me, and will you refuse to do that little which lies upon your hands?" Every time we look out upon our congregations, let us believingly remember that they are purchased by Christ's blood and that therefore they should highly regarded by us."

Every time we look out upon our congregations, let us believingly remember that they are purchased by Christ's blood and that therefore they should highly regarded by us."

Richard Baxter