

UNSHAKEABLE

UNSHAKEABLE FRIENDSHIP

Acts 20:17 – 38 (NIV)

June 30, 2024

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MESSAGE NOTES

"And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me."

– Acts 20:22 – 23 (NIV)

When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again.

Then they accompanied him to the ship. – Acts 20:36 – 38 (NIV)

Building friendships in Christ through truth, transparency and time

- **Building friendships through truth**

"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. I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus." – Acts 20:20 – 21 (NIV)

"Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard! ..." – Acts 20:30 – 31 (NIV)

"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." – Acts 20:32 (ESV)

"...how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, ..." – Acts 20:20 (ESV)

- **Building friendships through transparency**

... "You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents." – Acts 20:18 – 19 (NIV)

"So be on your guard! Remember that for three years I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears." – Acts 20:31 (NIV)

- **Building friendships through time**

When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. – Acts 20:36 – 37 (NIV)

After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea ... – Acts 21:1 (NIV)

"The principle of friendship is when two people find that the same thing amazes them." – C.S. Lewis



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Share some qualities that you believe make someone a great friend.
- Read Acts 20:20 – 21; 20:32. What are some of the principles for making friends through the power of Christ do you find in this passage?
- Why is truth with grace such a powerful foundation for making real friends? What happens when you have relationships with truth but there is no grace? And what happens when you have relationships with grace but there is no truth?
- Read Acts 20:18 – 19; 20:31. Why are sharing tears of joy and grief with someone examples of the power of transparency in forming real friendships? How did serving the Lord "*with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing*" help Paul build an authentic community in Acts?
- C.S. Lewis once said, "*The principle of friendship is when two people find that the same thing amazes them.*" What did he mean by that and how does it relate to following Christ together?
- What step of faith might God be leading you to take in order to build better friendships or help others build better friendships?
- Share what God most spoke to you about from Acts 20.
- Pray for God to lead you in being a Christ-filled friend to others.