

A TOUCHING MAN'S FAREWELL

The Acts of the Apostles - Part 46

Acts 20:13-38

June 14, 2009

Some Characteristics of A Healthy Ministry

1. He _____ the _____ of the _____.

“And when they had come to him, he said to them, ‘You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house...’” Acts 20:18-20 (NASB)

Some important tests:

- Paul was not _____.
- He endured the test of _____.

“...serving the Lord with all humility and with tears...” v. 19

- He endured the test of _____.

“...with trials which came through the plots of the Jews...”

- He overcame _____.

“... how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house...” v. 20

“I did everything I could to help you; I held nothing back. I taught you publicly, and I taught you in your homes.”

(The Voice)

2. It was based on solid _____.

“...solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Acts 20:21 (NASB)

“I told everyone the same message—Jews and Greeks alike—that we must repent toward God and have faith in Jesus, our Liberating King.” (The Voice)

3. It was free of _____ and _____ compromise.

“Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of men.” Acts 20:26 (NASB)

“For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.” Acts 20:27 (NASB)

“So I want to make this clear: I am not responsible for your destiny from this point on because I have not held back from telling you the purpose of God in all its dimensions.”

vs. 26-27 (The Voice)

“And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me.” Acts 20:22-23 (NASB)

“Now I feel that the Holy Spirit has taken me captive. I am being led to Jerusalem. My future is uncertain, but I know—the Holy Spirit has told me—that everywhere I go from now on, I will find imprisonment and persecution waiting for me.” (The Voice)

“...except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I

may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:23-24 (NASB)

“...but I know—the Holy Spirit has told me—that everywhere I go from now on, I will find imprisonment and persecution waiting for me. But that’s OK. That’s not tragedy for me because I don’t cling to my life for my own sake. The only value I place on my life is that I may finish my race, that I may fulfill the ministry that Jesus, our King, has given me, that I may gladly tell the good news of God’s grace.”

(The Voice)

“Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness—the kingdom of heaven is theirs. And blessed are you, blessed are all of you, when people persecute you or denigrate you or despise you or tell lies about you on My account. But when this happens, rejoice. Be glad. Remember that God’s prophets have been persecuted in the past. And know that in heaven, you have a great reward.”

Matthew 5:10-12 (The Voice)

“We are dead men on furlough. We treat ourselves as though we are good as dead.”

Karl Marx

“We are not our own. We are bought with a price. That we lay down our lives as a sacrifice to Him.”

Jesus & Paul