

Mysterious Ways

Acts 20:7-12

I. Intro

- A. In the past weeks we have looked at several attacks on the church.
- B. We have seen in scripture how the attacks came from outside and inside.
- C. We have seen the Jewish people, the Gentile people, dishonest business people, and skeptics reject the teachings of the apostles.
- D. We have seen the enemy use various means, and have even had physical examples within our own walls.
- E. We should never see things as only physical, or only spiritual: They seem to be interconnected
 1. But the physical seems to get our attention quicker
 2. The Spiritual needs to also be understood.
- F. God can and will use any situation in the physical to remind us of spiritual truth, and to get His message across.

II. Text

- A. Verse 7: The first day of the week: The Lord's day
 1. Jesus' resurrection took place on the first day of the week
 2. The Coming of the Holy Spirit took place on Pentecost, the 7th Sunday after Passover/first fruits: On the First day of the week: Acts 2
 3. Paul instructed the church to take up a collection on the first day of the week, 1 Corinthians 16:2 On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.
 4. They seemed to gather various days, but especially on Sunday, to break bread
 - a) This is believed to reference the Lord's Supper, communion
 - b) It could be a "love feast" which was like a potluck that ended with the Lord's supper
 - c) Either way, sounds like a good time with the church and with the Lord.
 5. Paul was about to leave and preached on to midnight
 6. Verse 8: Lamps were brought, could have contributed to the sleepy environment according to many scholars.
 7. Verse 9: Eutychus
 - a) His name:
 - (1) Eu: prefix meaning "good"
 - (2) Tychus: from a root meaning "happenings"
 - (3) This name would have been: fortunate, or lucky
 - (4) Basically Eutychus' name is the equivalent of being called LUCKY.
 - b) Paul talked still longer...
 - c) Eutychus falls to his death
 8. Verse 10: Paul bent over him declaring life was still in him
 9. Verse 11: Paul still conversing with them until daybreak
 10. Verse 12:
 - a) Eutychus is alive
 - b) The church was greatly comforted
 - (1) Strange way to say it
 - (2) Literal: comforted were greatly.
 - (3) They were 'not a little comforted': they were thrilled!

III. Point

- A. The Teaching of the Word
 1. Paul preached a really long time, about 9 hours or so.
 2. The church was hungry for the word, and gathered in a confined space for a literal 'all nighter'

3. Many pastors have been accused of being long winded...
 - a) Some have said, Pastors only work one day a week, and they work too long that day.
 - b) J. Vernon McGee said, "it's not how long you make it, but how you make it long."
 - c) The people in Troas were longing to hear the word, and were motivated to use every last moment.
 4. The teaching of the word is vital to your spiritual life:
 - a) It is of great importance to learn God's word.
 - b) As a pastor, my great desire is to simply teach the word of God and love people well.
 - c) That is what brings me joy.
 5. If you have fallen away from your love for the word, I'm challenging you to "fall back!"
 - a) Examine the scriptures daily
 - b) Join a Bible Study group
 - c) Ask questions, dig deep, allow the truth to change you
 - d) Please, don't try to force the word of God into your agenda, change to become like it.
- B. The Limitations of the Flesh
1. Eutychus responded like I would if I had to help the youth with a lock-in...I'd be out at some point.
 2. I'm sure this young man had all the desire and purpose in his heart to listen to every word from Paul, but the flesh failed.
 3. His name was "Lucky" or "Fortunate" and I'd say he was fortunate here.
 4. When his flesh failed him, God was still all powerful, and used Paul to bring great joy to the church.
 5. Your flesh will fail, so don't depend upon it.
 6. Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.
 7. When you reach the limits of your flesh...
 - a) You find God
 - b) You realize He was there all along
 - c) And You can then watch Him work as only He can do.
 8. What hinders this?
 - a) Learning this lesson over and over again will cause us to miss the joy of resting in the work.
 - b) Depending on your ability to fix things, rather than allowing God to intervene early and often.
 9. Old Christian Cliche'
 - a) Let go and let God...
 - b) Ok, how about cling to God, and stop trying to do it yourself!
 - c) Doesn't have the same ring.
- C. The Amazement of the Church
1. When God works, we should take notice!
 2. We have been serving the Lord and enjoying fellowship with God, listening to the teaching of the word, and the participating in the life changing gospel.
 - a) This is not a ho-hum life!
 - b) This is the life of wonder and amazement!
 3. GOD IS AT WORK IN YOU!
 - a) The God who spoke the world into existence
 - b) The God who rescued His people
 - c) The God who became flesh and dwelt among us

- d) The God who demonstrated the miracle working power in the flesh:
 - (1) Walking on water
 - (2) Healing of the sick
 - (3) Feeding 5000
 - (4) Resurrecting from the dead!
 - (5) And bringing Eutychus “Lucky” of Troas back to life!
 - e) You have fellowship with GOD, and HE has placed HIS SPIRIT in you!
4. Look and be amazed at the work of God!
- IV. Close