

# Courage to leave, courage to stay

## Acts 20: 17 - 38

Paul is on his third missionary journey Acts 18:23

- He travels across country from Antioch to Ephesus
- Our gospel motivation: To love God and to love our neighbour.
- Paul leaves, Paul stays – Guided by the Holy Spirit who uses visions, friends and enemies to extend the church!
- Courage to stay courage to leave – Incredible adventure, Real cost.

Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders Acts 20: 17 - 24

- A painful departure – they would not see him again.
- 'I served the Lord with great humility'
- 'I served the Lord with great humility and tears'
- 'I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.'

Three essentials for being a gospel presence

- Humility –
  - 'Not think less of yourself but thinks of yourself less' (CS Lewis)
  - To serve the Lord not comfort, not security, not control
  - Love God love people
- Vulnerability
  - With tears
  - Being real with people – 2 Corinthians 1:8
- Boldness – The product of humility and vulnerability
  - I did not hesitate
  - I did not hesitate to preach anything that would be helpful

## Digging Deeper

Read Acts 18:23 – 20:38 to see what Luke wrote about Paul's third missionary journey.

1. What are some of the costs you have experienced from being a Christian?
2. Read through Acts 20: 13 – 38 – what are some of the costs that Paul experienced in his ministry?
3. What helped him to keep going in spite of these hardships and challenges? How can we develop a similar courage and perseverance?
4. What are the particular things that hold us back from giving our all to be a Gospel presence?
5. In the light of the message how would you define humility?
6. What does it mean to be vulnerable and why can this be a challenge?