**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Measure a Man |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Acts 20:17-38 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1286 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Acts 20:17-38
      1. The Apostle Paul was revisiting the mission field.
      2. He came to Miletus, and there he gathered with him the Ephesian elders.
         1. They talked about the good times that they had together.
            1. How God had blessed and poured out His blessing.
         2. They were one in the bonds of love.
            1. They had been through many prayer meetings and evangelistic crusades together.
            2. They had many victories in Jesus.
            3. Their hearts were melded together.
      3. They were having a prayer meeting.
         1. God moved into that prayer meeting, and there was a sweet spirit.
      4. They realized that this was the last prayer meeting they would have with the Apostle Paul.
         1. They began to weep.
            1. Paul would be sorely missed.
   2. When you are gone, will you be missed?
      1. Will your life have any kind of an impact?
   3. Some of us will find out that our entire life was not a success.
      1. We will go into eternity with a wasted life.
   4. When we go, we will leave behind us all that we have.
      1. We will take with us all that we are.
   5. When the world measures a man, he is measured by brains, brawn, or bucks.
      1. But how do you measure a man?
         1. What really counts?
   6. Today’s message will share with us three things that are the measure of a man.
2. we measure A MAN by the manner of his life (acts 20:17-19)
   1. Acts 20:17-19
   2. Paul’s life was a life of humility.
      1. Acts 20:19
      2. No one has a life that can be called a great life without true humility.
      3. Humility is not putting yourself down.
         1. It is not saying that you are no good because that is not true about you.
            1. Jesus paid too great a price for you to say that you are no good.
            2. If you are saved, then you are a child of God.

You are a prince and a king.

* + - * 1. Exodus 19:6

If you are saved, then you are a holy priest.

* + - * 1. If you are saved, then Jesus is not ashamed to call you His brother or sister.

You are next of kin to the Holy Trinity.

Hebrews 2:11

* + - 1. Matthew 22:39
         1. If you don’t love you, then you don’t know how to love me.
      2. Humility is not degrading yourself.
    1. Humility is an honest estimation of yourself that says about you what God says about you.
       1. It results primarily in serving.
          1. Acts 20:19

In this verse, the word “serving” is the verb form of the noun which means “bond slave.”

* + - * 1. The mark of humility is service.
    1. A humble person serves other people.
       1. When God measures a person’s life, He does not measure by how many servants that person has but by how many people that person serves.
       2. There are a lot of people who have never learned to serve.
          1. We need to find a place of service in the church, in our community, and in our home.
       3. Unless we are a servant, we will not truly be missed when we are gone.
  1. Paul’s life was a life of heartache.
     1. Acts 20:19
     2. The Apostle Paul had a broken heart.
     3. He was a compassionate man.
        1. He knew how to weep.
        2. He knew how to enter into the sorrows and the hurts of other people.
           1. That is the way to be missed.
           2. If we live for self and self alone and insulate ourselves from the cares and problems of this world, then we will not be missed.
        3. Do the things that break the heart of Jesus break your heart?
           1. Do you know how to weep?
     4. When we read about the ministry of Paul, we don’t read about him weeping.
        1. Most of the time, he wept in private.
     5. Jesus was a man of tears, Paul was a man of tears, and Jeremiah was a man of tears.
        1. We should be people of tears.
  2. Paul’s life was a life of hardship.
     1. Acts 20:19
        1. The King James Version of the Bible uses the word “temptations,” but it literally means “trials.”
           1. It means that there were people who disliked him.
     2. There were people who opposed Paul.
     3. There were people who literally, physically harmed him because of the stand he took for the Lord Jesus Christ.
     4. There is no way we can have a life that will count and make an impression on this world without making some enemies.
  3. Unless you are willing for humility, heartache, and hardship to be in your life, you will not have the kind of a life that Paul had.
     1. It will not be the kind of a life that counts.

1. we meausre a man by the message of his life (acts 20:20-21)
   1. Not only do we live a certain way, but we also say a certain thing.
      1. We are to leave behind us a message.
         1. Every one of us will be known for something when we are gone.
   2. The content of his message:
      1. Acts 20:20-21
      2. Repentance and faith were the content of his message.
         1. This encapsulated his life.
         2. Repentance toward God.
         3. Faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ.
      3. Paul was known primarily as a Gospel preacher.
         1. It was a narrow message.
         2. He didn’t stutter or stammer.
            1. He kept preaching this message.
   3. The conviction of his message:
      1. Acts 20:22-24
      2. Paul knew it was God’s will for him to go back to Jerusalem.
         1. He knew that when he got there, he would have heartache and trouble.
            1. But he didn’t get stampeded by any of these things.
      3. Paul had a bulldog grip on certain things.
         1. What is wrong with the average person today is that he has opinions but not convictions.
      4. Paul had convictions.
         1. He was bound in the Spirit.
         2. He was going to finish his course with joy.
            1. It would eventually lead to his death, but Paul had rather die with a conviction than to live with a compromise.

Most of us had rather live with a compromise than to die with a conviction.

* 1. The confidence of his message:
     1. Paul died confidently.
     2. Acts 20:25-27
        1. What did he mean when he said, “I am pure from the blood of all men”?
           1. Ezekiel said that we are like watchmen upon a wall.

Ezekiel 33:6

If we see the enemy coming and we do not warn the people inside the city, then their blood will be required at our hands.

* + - * 1. He was talking about soul winning.

If we don’t tell our friends, neighbors, brothers, and sisters about the Lord Jesus Christ and they die and go to Hell, then their blood is on our hands.

If we know the only message that this world needs and we don’t tell it, then we are guilty of high treason against Heaven’s King.

We will meet the Lord with bloody hands.

* + 1. The Apostle Paul knew that before long, he would meet the Lord.
       1. He said he was pure.
          1. He was not going to face his Lord with bloody hands.
    2. Some of us will face the Lord with blood on our hands.
       1. There are souls that we should have witnessed to that have died and gone to Hell, and it is our fault.
    3. Paul had confidence about his message.
       1. Acts 20: 26-27
          1. How many of us can say that?
       2. Matthew 25:21

1. we measure a man by the motto of his life (acts 20:33-35)
   1. Every man has a motto for his life.
      1. There is something that impels, motivates, drives, and constrains him.
   2. Acts 20:33-35
      1. “Remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said that it was more blessed to give than to receive.”
         1. That was the motto of Paul’s life.
   3. The Apostle Paul was a great man because he spent life, not primarily as a receiver, but as a giver.
      1. Therefore, his life was blessed.
   4. People are divided into two categories:
      1. The takers
      2. The givers
         1. The takers eat better.
         2. The givers sleep better.
            1. Acts 20:35
   5. When we die, all that we will take with us is what we have given away.
      1. What we have spent is gone forever.
      2. What we did not spend will be left for others.
      3. What we gave away is ours forever.
         1. It is more blessed to give than to receive.
   6. This motto did the following for Paul:
      1. It freed him from covetousness.
         1. Acts 20:33
         2. One of the Ten Commandments is “Thou shalt not covet.”
            1. Exodus 20:17
         3. The Bible says that covetousness is idolatry.
            1. Colossians 3:5
      2. It freed him from idleness.
         1. Acts 20:34-35
         2. He worked for his needs.
         3. Paul said that there are people who have needs who are weak and cannot work.
            1. He worked that he might help the needy.
         4. 2 Thessalonians 3:10
            1. But there are some people who cannot work.

Those of us who can work need to work so that we can help those who are weak.

* + 1. It freed him from selfishness.
       1. Nobody has a great life that lives a selfish life.
       2. The Apostle Paul lived a life of giving not taking, of helping not hurting, of loving and lifting and caring.
          1. Matthew 25:40
  1. There is no easy way to have a great life, but it is more blessed to give than it is to receive.
     1. Acts 20:35

1. CONCLUSION
   1. There are some of us that when we are gone, we will not be missed.
   2. There are others that when they are gone, people will weep sorely.
   3. You measure a man’s life by the following:
      1. The manner of his life.
      2. The message of his life.
      3. The motto of his life.
   4. Acts 20:35
      1. When you die, you will leave behind all that you have, and you will take with you all that you are.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16