

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Measure a Man

SERMON REFERENCE: Acts 20:17-38

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1286

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1) INTRODUCTION

a) Acts 20:17-38

- i) The Apostle Paul was revisiting the mission field.
 - ii) He came to Miletus, and there he gathered with him the Ephesian elders.
 - (1) They talked about the good times that they had together.
 - (a) How God had blessed and poured out His blessing.
 - (2) They were one in the bonds of love.
 - (a) They had been through many prayer meetings and evangelistic crusades together.
 - (b) They had many victories in Jesus.
 - (c) Their hearts were melded together.
 - iii) They were having a prayer meeting.
 - (1) God moved into that prayer meeting, and there was a sweet spirit.
 - iv) They realized that this was the last prayer meeting they would have with the Apostle Paul.
 - (1) They began to weep.
 - (a) Paul would be sorely missed.
- b) When you are gone, will you be missed?
 - i) Will your life have any kind of an impact?
- c) Some of us will find out that our entire life was not a success.
 - i) We will go into eternity with a wasted life.
- d) When we go, we will leave behind us all that we have.
 - i) We will take with us all that we are.
- e) When the world measures a man, he is measured by brains, brawn, or bucks.
 - i) But how do you measure a man?
 - (1) What really counts?
- f) 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)

a) Acts 20:17-19

b) Paul's life was a life of humility.

- i) Acts 20:19
- ii) No one has a life that can be called a great life without true humility.
- iii) Humility is not putting yourself down.
 - (1) It is not saying that you are no good because that is not true about you.
 - (a) Jesus paid too great a price for you to say that you are no good.
 - (b) If you are saved, then you are a child of God.
 - (i) You are a prince and a king.
 - (c) Exodus 19:6
 - (i) If you are saved, then you are a holy priest.
 - (d) If you are saved, then Jesus is not ashamed to call you His brother or sister.

- (i) You are next of kin to the Holy Trinity.
 - (ii) Hebrews 2:11
 - (2) Matthew 22:39
 - (a) If you don't love you, then you don't know how to love me.
 - (3) Humility is not degrading yourself.
 - iv) Humility is an honest estimation of yourself that says about you what God says about you.
 - (1) It results primarily in serving.
 - (a) Acts 20:19
 - (i) In this verse, the word "serving" is the verb form of the noun which means "bond slave."
 - (b) The mark of humility is service.
 - v) 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.
 - (a) 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.
- c) Paul's life was a life of heartache.
 - i) Acts 20:19
 - ii) The Apostle Paul had a broken heart.
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) That is the way to be missed.
 - (b) 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?
 - (a) Do you know how to weep?
 - iv) When we read about the ministry of Paul, we don't read about him weeping.
 - (1) Most of the time, he wept in private.
 - v) 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.
- d) Paul's life was a life of hardship.
 - i) Acts 20:19
 - (1) The King James Version of the Bible uses the word "temptations," but it literally means "trials."
 - (a) It means that there were people who disliked him.
 - ii) There were people who opposed Paul.

- iii) There were people who literally, physically harmed him because of the stand he took for the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - iv) There is no way we can have a life that will count and make an impression on this world without making some enemies.
 - e) 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.
 - i) It will not be the kind of a life that counts.

- 3) WE MEASURE A MAN BY THE MESSAGE OF HIS LIFE (ACTS 20:20-21)
 - a) Not only do we live a certain way, but we also say a certain thing.
 - i) We are to leave behind us a message.
 - (1) Every one of us will be known for something when we are gone.
 - b) The content of his message:
 - i) Acts 20:20-21
 - ii) 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.
 - iii) Paul was known primarily as a Gospel preacher.
 - (1) It was a narrow message.
 - (2) He didn't stutter or stammer.
 - (a) He kept preaching this message.
 - c) The conviction of his message:
 - i) Acts 20:22-24
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) But he didn't get stampeded by any of these things.
 - iii) 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.
 - iv) Paul had convictions.
 - (1) He was bound in the Spirit.
 - (2) He was going to finish his course with joy.
 - (a) It would eventually lead to his death, but Paul had rather die with a conviction than to live with a compromise.
 - (i) Most of us had rather live with a compromise than to die with a conviction.
 - d) The confidence of his message:
 - i) Paul died confidently.
 - ii) Acts 20:25-27
 - (1) What did he mean when he said, "I am pure from the blood of all men"?
 - (a) Ezekiel said that we are like watchmen upon a wall.
 - (i) Ezekiel 33:6

- (ii) 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.
 - (b) He was talking about soul winning.
 - (i) 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.
 - (ii) 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.
 - 1. We will meet the Lord with bloody hands.
 - iii) The Apostle Paul knew that before long, he would meet the Lord.
 - (1) He said he was pure.
 - (a) He was not going to face his Lord with bloody hands.
 - iv) 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.
 - v) Paul had confidence about his message.
 - (1) Acts 20: 26-27
 - (a) How many of us can say that?
 - (2) Matthew 25:21
- 4) WE MEASURE A MAN BY THE MOTTO OF HIS LIFE (ACTS 20:33-35)
 - a) Every man has a motto for his life.
 - i) There is something that impels, motivates, drives, and constrains him.
 - b) Acts 20:33-35
 - i) "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.
 - c) The Apostle Paul was a great man because he spent life, not primarily as a receiver, but as a giver.
 - i) Therefore, his life was blessed.
 - d) People are divided into two categories:
 - i) The takers
 - ii) The givers
 - (1) The takers eat better.
 - (2) The givers sleep better.
 - (a) Acts 20:35
 - e) When we die, all that we will take with us is what we have given away.
 - i) What we have spent is gone forever.
 - ii) What we did not spend will be left for others.
 - iii) What we gave away is ours forever.
 - (1) It is more blessed to give than to receive.
 - f) This motto did the following for Paul:
 - i) It freed him from covetousness.
 - (1) Acts 20:33

- (2) One of the Ten Commandments is “Thou shalt not covet.”
 - (a) Exodus 20:17
- (3) The Bible says that covetousness is idolatry.
 - (a) Colossians 3:5
- ii) 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.
 - (a) He worked that he might help the needy.
 - (4) 2 Thessalonians 3:10
 - (a) But there are some people who cannot work.
 - (i) Those of us who can work need to work so that we can help those who are weak.
- iii) 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.
 - (a) Matthew 25:40
- g) There is no easy way to have a great life, but it is more blessed to give than it is to receive.
 - i) Acts 20:35

5) CONCLUSION

- a) There are some of us that when we are gone, we will not be missed.
- b) There are others that when they are gone, people will weep sorely.
- c) You measure a man’s life by the following:
 - i) The manner of his life.
 - ii) The message of his life.
 - iii) The motto of his life.
- d) Acts 20:35
 - i) When you die, you will leave behind all that you have, and you will take with you all that you are.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16