

Acts 19-20

To boldly go

1) Being bold means allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us (Acts 19)

Paul goes into Ephesus and, despite the crazy and often depraved culture and with only 12 disciples there who only know the half the story, preaches boldly for 3 months about Jesus! He performs amazing miracles, whilst others who try and replicate these miracles fail miserably. Then there's a classic riot!

Paul got that, though he had suffered for the gospel and though he was in a totally different and anti-Christian culture. The Holy Spirit was within him so he could be bold!

Questions

- How might knowing that the Holy Spirit (the power and presence of God) living within you change how you view Monday at 10.30am?
- Where might God be prompting you to demonstrate more boldness in your life?

2) Being bold means stepping out of their comfort zone (Acts 20: 7-12)

You get the sense that Paul always quite likes the sound of his own voice. In Troas he spoke all the way into the night. A young man called Eutychus who was at the back on his own, fell asleep, fell out the window and died! Typically, Paul told everyone to chill, lay on the young man who came back from the dead then went back up to preach until the next day! Eutychus was disconnected and unnoticed – but at the story became part of the group.

Questions

- Who might God be calling you to be uncomfortable for in your life?
- Are there people you know that are a bit like Eutychus, in a dangerous place and perhaps unnoticed?

3) Being bold means prioritising God (Acts 20:13-37)

On his way back from his big 3rd journey, Paul meets back up with the leaders in Ephesus to give them a final farewell in which he summarises his purposes, challenging people to put everything aside for the sake of Christ. 8 years later Paul will write one of the most amazing letters to these guys encouraging them as they crack on.

Question

- What are the things in your life that might be preventing you from being bold for God?

Challenge

How can we as a small group make space for the Holy Spirit?

How can we encourage each other to boldly go for God?