

An Emotional Send-Off

Acts 20:17-38

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Introduction:

The Apostle Paul summoned the pastors at Ephesus to encourage them in their ministry.

- I. **Paul assembled the Ephesian elders (17).**

- II. **Paul addressed the Ephesian elders (18-35).**
 - a. **Paul's reminder (18-21)**
 1. his manner of ministry
 - tireless
 - constant
 - "Christ-ward"
 - humble
 - empathetic
 - tested
 2. his teaching
 - fearless
 - thorough
 - public
 - personal
 - indiscriminate
 - evangelistic (not soft-pedaled)

b. **Paul's forecast (22-23)**

1. the unknowns (hard)
2. the knowns (hard)

c. **Paul's priority (24)**

1. forget self
(in order to)
2. faithfully serve

d. **Paul's assurance (25-27)**

- you have what you need from me:
- content
 - example
 - motive

e. **Paul's warning (28-31)**

1. the command: protect God's flock
2. the reason: infiltrators and "eldertraitors"
3. the command: imitate my shepherding —> ceaseless, vigilant, empathetic, personal admonishment.

f. **Paul's hand-off (32)**

1. to God
2. to God's Word

g. **Paul's example (33-35)**

1. integrity
2. hard work
3. selfless sacrifice

iii. **Paul left the Ephesian elders (36-38).**

- a. Paul prayed.
- b. They cried.
- c. They kissed.
- d. They walked him to the boat.