

HOOK- *HAVE YOU EVER FALLEN ASLEEP IN CHURCH?* Raise hands- if you didn't you may be asleep
I once woke myself up to my snoring and the girls in front of me laughing

The section of scripture we'll be in today is famous for the boy who fell asleep in church.....AND DIED. (oh yeah)
Don't worry this isn't a message about why shouldn't sleep in church-
We would rather have you present and asleep- maybe leave your sleep apnea machine at home though

While there are some gospel rich truths around Eutychus' story- our focus this morning will be primarily elsewhere-
What is the thing that we can't get or give enough of? **ENCOURAGEMENT!**

TITLE: **THE ONE THING WE CAN'T GET OR GIVE ENOUGH OF**

SERIES: **THE MOVEMENT-** a journey through the astonishing book of Acts

TEXT: **Acts 20:1-12**

(pray)

Encourage- to inspire with courage

The word used in Greek (OG written language) is: **parakaleó**
pará, "from close-beside" / *kaléō*, "make a call" from being "close-up and personal."

We find this word in v1, 2, 12 of our text today (English used diff words, but they are the same Greek word)

Let's go through these 12 verses, I'll make some observations here and there,
but then I want to make a case for encouragement- and here's why:

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT- Encouragement is the one thing we can always give and receive more of

RECAP- a city-wide Revival and then a city-wide Riot

After the uproar was over, Paul sent for the disciples, encouraged them, and after saying good-bye, departed to go to Macedonia.

Paul had every reason to be discouraged if that's the route he would have chosen-
instead he goes around encouraging others – **CHOOSE to be an encourager**

It's easier to criticize and accuse, but in the bible you know who is called the accuser???? The devil

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: The salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Messiah have now come, because the accuser of our brothers has been thrown out: the one who accuses them before our God day and night.

Correction is necessary in the church- but not criticism for the sake of accusing.

We've covered this before, but I just think it's so crucial:

What's your Encouragement-Criticism ratio?

² And when he had passed through those areas and exhorted them at length, he came to Greece

³ and stayed three months. When he was about to set sail for Syria, a plot was devised against him by the Jews, so a decision was made to go back through Macedonia.

⁴ He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus from Asia.

7 different people from 4 different regions, not to mention Paul and Luke

All these guys are here as a result of Paul's earlier missionary journeys

⁵ These men went on ahead and waited for us in Troas,

⁶ but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread. In five days we reached them at Troas, where we spent seven days.

There is a lot going on in these verses that we can't get into for time's sake. Luke (the writer) leaves a lot of details out. we can fill in many of those details from the letters of 2 Corinthians & Romans:

Journeying to Jerusalem to give that church an offering from the other churches

While in Ephesus Paul writes Corinthians a painful letter (we don't have) 2 Cor.2:1-11, sent with Titus

Paul heads to Macedonia to hear report from Titus- stayed in Troas for a while 2 Cor.2:12-13

Goes to Philippi (most likely) to look for Titus- Titus has good news about issues at Corinth 2 Cor.2:5-11, 7:5-13

In v1 when he finally reaches Macedonia he proceeds to write 2 Cor.

What I find interesting is that Luke, who was very detail oriented (doctor), leaves so much out and keeps the focus on Paul's encouragement of the churches

v2 exhorted= *parakaleo*

So now they are at Troas

⁷ On the first day of the week, we assembled to break bread. Paul spoke to them, and since he was about to depart the next day, he extended his message until midnight.

The church gathered on the first day of the week to celebrate Jesus' resurrection which was on the first day of week (this was a shift from Jewish tradition which worshipped on sabbath)

Breaking bread= Communion/ Lords Supper

This was a church service! One of the reasons we gather is for.....can you guess?

ENCOURAGEMENT

Hebrews 10:24-25 And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, ²⁵ not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

The weekly gathering of the church is not for entertainment but for encouragement

⁸ There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were assembled,

⁹ and a young man named Eutychus (his name means lucky btw) was sitting on a window sill and sank into a deep sleep as Paul kept on speaking. When he was overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was picked up dead.

Picture it- people screaming and crying, panicked.

¹⁰ But Paul went down, fell on him, embraced him, and said, "Don't be alarmed, for his life is in him!"

Don't be alarmed= lit. don't make an uproar

Beside God raising Jesus from the grave, 7 times do we see God raise people from the dead:

Elijah, Elisha, Peter, Paul, Jesus had raised 3 (that we know of)

What Paul does here is the same thing Elijah and Elisha did in the OT

Let me *slightly* stretch the text: we have some Eutychus' in the building-

Some are sleeping saints; Some are spiritually dead

¹¹ After going upstairs, breaking the bread, and eating, Paul conversed a considerable time until dawn. Then he left.

¹² They brought the boy home alive and were greatly comforted.

v12 comforted= *parakaleo*

The raising from the dead of Eutychus is a symbol of the reason for our encouragement-

Our encouragement isn't based on good intentions or even on empathy alone. We have a strong foundation and base.

Our basis for encouragement is the fact that we have been raised from the dead and we will live with Christ forever.

We encourage one another because of the gospel.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up as you are already doing.

Hermeneutics 101- what's the therefore there for?

1 Thess. 5:9-10 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.

Encouragement is IMPORTANT (we need to elevate our concept of it)

Encouragement is necessary because our hearts grow faint and because sin is relentless

Hebrews 3:12-13 Watch out, brothers, so that there won't be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart that departs from the living God. ¹³ But encourage each other daily, while it is still called today, so that none of you is hardened by sin's deception.

Life drains us, sin weighs us down

Paul made it his mission not only to spread the gospel to all, but also to spread encouragement to all

Everyone needs encouragement. Some just need it desperately more.

S. Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-Fil-A, when someone asked him, "*How do you identify someone who needs encouragement?*" He said, "*That person is breathing.*"

We live in a Sin-sick world- we carry grief, insecurities, hurts, trauma, fears, struggles, wounds, responsibilities, doubts, our bodies are wearing out, our souls are growing weary, life hasn't lined up the way we thought it would, or perhaps it has and now we have the pressure to hold it all together...

When we encourage others (*with the gospel*), we are mirroring our God

John 16:7 Nevertheless, I am telling you the truth. It is for your benefit that I go away, because if I don't go away the Counselor (parakleitos) will not come to you. If I go, I will send Him to you.

Encouragement is part of the very essence of who God is. His name is Encourager.

The night is long, The way is hard, The suffering is deep – the wounds haven't healed, the doubts are relentless, the failures are real-

John 16:33 I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. You will have suffering in this world. Be courageous! I have conquered the world."

MAIN TAKEAWAY-

Christians should be the most encouraging people on earth, because we have the most encouraging hope in the world

Jesus loved us and died in our place and raised to live- nothing can separate us from that- nothing is too much

Not only do we have a foundation because of what Jesus has done- but also because of what He is still yet to do:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NLT And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. ¹⁵We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸So encourage each other with these words.

CALL TO ACTION-

WHO and HOW will I intentionally encourage this week with the hope of Jesus as it relates to their situation?

BULLPEN-

Why encouragement is important- **Ephesians 6:12** For our battle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world powers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavens.

Give and receive Christ exalting Spirit empowered encouragement

How can we encourage? Give, be with, serve

One day we all like Eutychus will be raised from the dead

People everywhere need encouragement

American writer and poet William Arthur Ward:

Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you.

Proverbs 16:24 NLT Kind words are like honey— sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.