

Unstoppable Power! -Part 2

Text: Acts 20:1-16

May 3, 2025

Big Idea: God's kingdom advances as the Church is encouraged on mission.

Context is key!

Question #1 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

Question #2 (Context)

Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

Question #3

- a) **Rd. Hebrews 3:12-13:** Why is biblical encouragement essential for church/kingdom growth?
- b) What are some reasons that often keep you from encouraging others around you in the Lord?
- c) How should the gospel motivate us to live lives of constant encouragement towards others?

A culture of gospel encouragement...

Point 1: INTENTIONAL Kingdom INVESTMENT (vv. 1-6)

Question: God encourages His people through His people. Will you invest in His kingdom?

Question #4

Intentional Investment...

i) Personal Encouragement

- a) **Rd. vv. 1-2:** What does the word, "encouragement" mean in vv. 1 & 2?
- b) How is encouragement in God's Kingdom to be different from encouragement of the world?
- c) What is a failure to encourage our brothers and sisters a sign of? Why that?
- d) How do we adorn the gospel when we personally encourage others?

Question #5

Note: For this question, men focus on the other men and women focus on the other women.

- a) Think of each person and write down at least 1 gospel encouragement for them and the Scripture where you got it from. It could be of how you see God at work in them, or encouraging them to press on in a trial, etc. Share it with them out loud either in the full group or in accountability.
- b) Once each person has shared, each person can pick another person to pray for from their encouragement to them.

Question #6

Intentional Investment...

ii) Practical Engagement (vv. 3-6)

- a) **Rd vv. 3-6:** Why did Paul change his plans from sailing from Corinth to Jerusalem?
- b) Why would having these 7 men join Paul on the journey be such an encouragement to the church in Jerusalem?
- c) What did these men have to give up to encourage their brothers and sisters in this way?
- d) In what ways can you encourage your church family through acts of practical engagement? What's one you can do this week?
- e) How are practical acts of encouragement a way to adorn the gospel to the church and world? (Hint: Phil. 2:1-11)

A culture of gospel encouragement...

Point 2: PRIORITIZE Kingdom PRIORITIES (vv. 7-16)

Question: God encourages His Church as it is prioritized. Are His priorities yours?

Question #7

Kingdom Priorities...

i) Gather on Mission (vv. 7-12)

- a) **Rd vv. 7-12:** What did the church prioritize as a means of encouraging one another in the Lord?
- b) Based on vv. 7-12, what means does God use to encourage us as we gather for worship?
- c) What happens in our hearts over time when we forsake gathering together? Why does this happen?
- d) Pray for one another for a deepening conviction for His priority of gathering as the church.

Question #8

Kingdom Priorities...

ii) Scatter on Mission (vv. 13-16)

- a) **Rd vv. 13-16:** How did God use Paul's willingness to go and encourage the church in Jerusalem?
- b) When it comes to the Great Commission, we go, we send or we disobey. Why is this true?
- c) What opportunities has God given you right now to go? To send?
- d) What is a next step you can take even this week, to put your 'yes' on the table for scattering on mission?

Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **Acts 20:1-16...**

- a) **ADORATION:** Lord Jesus, You are the God of encouragement who_____.
- b) **CONFESSION:** Lord Jesus, I repent of forsaking your encouragement by_____.
- c) **THANKSGIVING:** Lord Jesus, I thank you for encouraging me through _____.
- d) **SUPPLICATION:** Lord Jesus, I ask for_____.

Memory Verse:

"But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin."-Hebrews 3:13