

FBC Sebring Wednesday Prayer Meeting – Pastor Matt Crawford

April 20, 2016

Prayer in the Book of Acts (Part 13)

Acts 20:17–38 (ESV)

17 Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him.

18 And when they came to him, he said to them: “You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia,

19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews;

20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house,

21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

22 And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there,

23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me.

24 But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

25 And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the Kingdom will see my face again.

26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all,

27 for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Prayer points:

- 1) Pray that we would faithfully testify “of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ,” doing so “with all humility and with tears and with trials” (verses 19, 21).
- 2) Pray that we (individually *and* corporately) would follow the leadership of God’s Spirit, regardless of how it affects our earthly circumstances (verses 22-23).
- 3) Pray to have Paul’s perspective on this life in comparison to the Kingdom of God (verses 24-25).
- 4) Ask God to make us innocent of all men’s blood, because we have faithfully declared His gospel. Pray that God would enable your pastors to declare the whole counsel of God.

28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which He obtained with His own blood.

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;

30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.

31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.

32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

33 I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel.

34 You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me.

35 In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

37 And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him,

38 being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.

Prayer points:

- 1) Pray that your pastors would pay careful attention to their own lives, their teaching, and the flock (see also 1 Timothy 4:16).
- 2) Pray that God would protect our local body from false teaching and from self-centered leaders – that we would be spiritually alert for these things (verses 29-31).
- 3) Pray that God would build us up in the Word of His grace (verse 32).
- 4) Pray that as a church, we would faithfully help the weak and give generously (verse 35).
- 5) Thank God for the richness, depth, hope, and eternal nature of the family of God (verses 36-38).