



Day 16: January 28
Read Acts 17:1-34; 18:1-28

IGNORANCE

For a while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an alter with this inscription, "TO AN UNKNOWN GOD." Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. Acts 17:23

What is *ignorance*? If you look it up in Webster's Dictionary it means *lack of knowledge*. It is used a lot these days in a negative tone as being *stupid* or *dumb* when in a sense, a person who is ignorant is uneducated on a subject.

What was Paul's ministry truly about? He had knowledge and a personal relationship of the one true Savior of mankind and he gave that knowledge away. He looked for opportunities everywhere he went and started the conversation about Jesus with those God brought into his path.

Sometimes we make sharing our faith too hard. We look at evangelism as the job of the ministers or elders, even missionaries and teachers and so on. Sharing Jesus really starts with each one of us sharing our relationship and our knowledge of Jesus with those people we meet everyday who are *ignorant* about Him and what He did for them. They simply don't know nor do they understand. Every person we meet daily is a ministry opportunity that God brings before us. We must be alert and watch to see where God is already at work.

Are you missing these daily opportunities in your life to educate the ignorant about Jesus?

NOTES:

Prayer Focus: Pray that you will watch and be alert daily to see where God is working around you with people so that you may share Jesus with them. Pray for boldness and pure honesty about who He is.



Day 17: January 29
Read Acts 19:1-41

STAND

But as you have seen and heard, this man Paul has persuaded many people that handmade gods aren't really gods at all. And he's done this not only here in Ephesus but throughout the entire province! Acts 19:26

Today our world is very much like Ephesus. Companies are creating gods for us through their advertising programs. All kinds of gods are being put in front of us that take our time and our finances. Paul was able to discredit the god of Artemis through his teaching in the synagogue and also in the hall of Tyrannus. As a result he created havoc with the silversmiths and their craftsmen. I wonder what would happen today if we followed what Paul did with his teaching. Would we be able to silence the movement that is removing God from all aspects of our government and educational systems? We need to take a stand as Christians as we go into the community and world around us. We need to show others the love of Christ, to live as he lived and to stand up for what we believe. We need to be the example that Paul was.

NOTES:

Prayer Focus: Pray that we are able to set aside worldly gods and be a Christian example to the world.



Day 18: January 30
Read Acts 20:1-38

FAREWELL

They all cried as they embraced and kissed him good-bye. They were sad most of all because he had said that they would never see him again. Acts 20: 37, 38

When a military unit is deactivated a tradition is carried out in a ceremony known as “casing of the colors.” In this observance, the unit’s regimental flag is ceremoniously rolled up on the staff and a simple canvas sleeve is pulled over the rolled flag and the encased colors are marched off the parade ground. Although a reception is held afterwards where members of the unit and old friends are gathered, it’s a rather sad occasion. Former members reminisce, past comrades are remembered and afterwards folks depart the parade ground, many never to see each other again.

In Acts, chapter 20, we see something similar. Paul is leaving Asia and is on his way to Jerusalem. By this time, he has traveled throughout this region of the world preaching God’s powerful message of salvation. Many have come to believe and Paul, Timothy, and others have planted many churches. Elders have been appointed, people are being saved in great numbers, and challenges are being addressed. Through all this, these pioneers of faith have developed many deep and lasting friendships. Now in verses 36 through 38 we see the farewell. Sadness is in the air as friends realize they will never see each other again.

Although like everyone in our present age we will experience the sadness of loss, we know that one day we will all be raised in the Glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and we will be reunited with our friends and family of faith. The Lord will wipe away our tears, and sadness will not be a word in heaven’s dictionary. I’m looking forward to that day and I know you are too. Let’s take as many of our friends and family to heaven as we can!

NOTES:

Prayer Focus: Thank God that our earthly goodbyes are only temporary. Pray everyone you come into contact with will hear and receive the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ and one day be in heaven.



Day 19: January 31
Read Acts 21:1-40

SURRENDER

Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, “The Lord’s will be done.” Acts 21:13-14

In 1945, on the deck of the battleship Missouri, a document was signed that formerly ended all hostilities between the United States and the Nation of Japan. Paramount in this document was the inclusion of the term “*unconditional surrender*.” In this concept, a vanquished nation can make no claims of its own. It is required to relinquish or sign over all of its formerly held rights and privileges unto the discretion of another. The fate of the one that yields is completely at the victor’s mercy. This type of surrender would hardly be considered voluntarily as the submitting nation rarely has a choice in trying to avoid total annihilation and death.

In an amazing testimony, Paul exemplifies the biblical antithesis of this concept. While the worldly system often chooses surrender to avoid death, we see Paul voluntarily submitting even to the point of death. What would cause him to choose a path that is so contrary to human thought? The key is not in the act of surrender itself but in the “Whom” one is surrendering to. God called Paul into a complete and unconditional surrender of his will. Paul voluntarily accepted, not because he was looking forward to being bound and beaten to the point of death, but in a beautiful display of faith in the one who held his future. To Paul, this type of surrender had to be absolutely “unconditional.” He knew that all aspects of his life, no matter how big or small were now a reflection of the “One” who held his fate.

NOTES:

Prayer Focus: Thank God for choosing you as His own child and for preparing good things for you to do long before you were born. Pray that God will reveal to you the area of Kingdom Work He wants you to be involved in. Ask Him for clarity and courage to obey His choice.



Day 20: February 1
Read Acts 22:1-30

CONTROL

"Brothers and esteemed fathers," Paul said, "listen to me as I offer my defense." ...The crowd listened until Paul came to that word, then with one voice they shouted, "Away with such a fellow! Kill Him! He isn't fit to live!" Acts 22:1 & 22

Paul had quite the story to tell in his defense and was a great communicator. He spoke to the crowd in their own language, Aramaic. This really got the crowds attention. If we have a chance to share our testimony with someone, are we meeting them on equal ground, do we make a connection? Paul knew what GOD had done in his life and was not afraid to be a tool of GOD. We also see how the crowd reacted to the word Gentiles which was anyone not Jewish. Paul knew that Jesus is for everyone who accepts him. Do we share Jesus or do we try to keep Him to ourselves? Paul, formally known as Saul, is such a changed person! God can do the same in us. Let GOD be in control, not us.

NOTES:

Prayer Focus: Pray that GOD would strengthen us through his Holy Spirit. Give us boldness and courage like Paul. That he would take away our pride and make us more humble and caring. GOD, we ask you to be in control.

February 2 & 3



WEEKEND REFLECTIONS

SUNDAY SERMON NOTES:
