

Bold and Powerful  
Week's reading: Acts 20:13-23:11  
Discussion Guide: December 3, 2023

**CHECK UP:**

Memory work: Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power. - Acts 19:18-20

How have you lived a "holy flexible" lifestyle the past couple of weeks?

**OPEN:**

- Who did you B.L.E.S.S. this past week? What action steps did you take?
  - o How did you live bold and powerful this past week?
- What stood out to you from this past week's reading?
  - o What questions do you have?

**READ and ASK: Acts 20:17-38, 1 Peter 5:1-4**

- Summarize Paul's message to the Ephesian elders.
  - o What would you say was the gist of it?
  - o What did Paul say in review of his ministry in Ephesus?
  - o In what ways was Paul confident and hopeful for the future?
- What made Paul "innocent of the blood of all men"?
- What are the responsibilities of the Ephesian elders going forward?
  - o How do all believers need to be on guard against false teachers?
  - o There are repeated warnings about false teachers in the New Testament (teachers who are both inside and outside the church), why is it important to be on guard against false teachers and what does that look like?
  - o Pastor, overseer, and elder are basically different words for the same role in the New Testament, what does that mean pastors/elders should be focused on?
- How have you experienced that "it is more blessed to give than receive"?

- How is communal perseverance taught and displayed in this text?
  - o How does community help us persevere?

**APPLY:**

- How does Paul's life and work challenge you?
- How can you give this week?
- NEXT STEP: How do you regularly need to lean more on others to persevere in your faith?

Memory Work:

I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. - Acts 20:24

Next Week's Reading:

Acts 23:12-28:31