

A Shepherd's Farewell

Acts 20:17-38

PART 1

Introduction

The passage is easily divided into 3 sections: *Past* (vv17-21), *Present* (vv22-27), and *Future* (vv28-31).

- I. Past Reminders (vv17-21)
- II. Personal Reflections (vv22-27)
- III. Potential Risks (vv28-32)
- IV. Parting Ruminations (vv33-38)

I. Past Reminders (vv17-21)

v17

v18

1 Thessalonians 2:8

v19

v20

"I did not shrink" Gk *hupostello*; 'to hold under, conceal'; 'to cower, shun, withdraw.'

"from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you"

"in public and from house to house"

Acts 5:42

v21

"repentance" Gk *metanoia*; *"faith"* Gk *pistis*.

These two words are essential to *justification*.

Together they comprise the outcome of *conversion*.

Two of the great triumphs of the gospel: restoring *comfort and joy* in God's reconciled people.

Isaiah 61:1-3

This is our redemption story.

The first word of Jesus' first sermon was "Repent" (Matt. 4:17). Luke 24:47

Three necessary steps of true repentance that lead to restoration, comfort and joy:

1. INTELLECTUAL

The first step toward reconciliation and restoration is confronting sin with biblical truth, *conviction*.

John 17:17

2 Corinthians 4:4; John 8:44-47

Judas: Matthew 27:3-5

Biblical truth must confront the *delusion* of sin.

"Before God can deliver us we must undeceive ourselves." Augustine

2. EMOTIONAL

The second step is to feel a deep remorse, sorrow, brokenness over sin. This is *contrition*.

But, *sorrow alone* does not make repentance that leads to life.

Sorrow over sin might be produced by:

- ❖ Sorrow over getting caught.
- ❖ Sorrow over circumstances.
- ❖ Sorrow over incurring pain.
- ❖ Sorrow over causing others pain.
- ❖ Sorrow over loss.

The Rich Young Ruler: Luke 18:18-23

"Against you, you alone, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" Psalm 51:4

Esau: Hebrews 12:16-17

3. VOLITIONAL

The third step is *turning* away from sin and toward God. This is a deliberate change of *direction*.

The two concepts are inseparable and complementary to each other.

Acts 9:35

1 Thessalonians 1:9

Acts 26:19-21

“Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.” Proverbs 28:13

True repentance includes a change of mind, a change of heart, and a deliberate change of direction.

“the Lord persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets, saying, 'Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds.’” Jeremiah 25:4-5

Isaiah 55:6-7

Isaiah 65:18-19

Isaiah 66:13-14

Jeremiah 31:13-14

Joel 2:12-13