
SERMON OUTLINE

The Attitude of Encouragement

Acts 19:23-20:12

*Encouragement is the attitude of trusting God's good plan.

- I. Riots and Rejection: Paul had many reasons for discouragement in Ephesus (Acts 19:21-41).
 - A. Constantly changing plans (Acts 19:21-22; 2 Corinthians 1:15-19)
 - B. Many discouragements dealing with problems in Corinth while in Ephesus [1 & 2 Corinthians]
 - C. The Riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:23-41)
 1. Demetrius organizes opposition (23-27).
 2. Riot against Paul lasts for hours (28-34).
 3. City clerk calms riot (35-41)
- II. Problems and Plots: Paul encouraged believers in Ephesus and all the churches on the way to Corinth (Acts 20:1-6; 2 Corinthians 1:3-11).
 - A. Paul encouraged believers in Ephesus and all the church on his way to Corinth (Acts 20:1-3a).
 - B. Paul changed his plans again because of a plot to kill him in Corinth (Acts 20:3b-6)

Keys to Encouragement

1. Recognize that God alone is our Ultimate Encourager (2 Cor. 1:3-4a; 2 Cor. 7:6-7).
2. Recognize God encourages us in our hard times so we can encourage others in theirs (2 Cor. 1:4b-7; Acts 20:1-3).
3. Recognize difficulties teach us to trust God, and appreciate when God answers prayer (2 Cor. 1:8-11).
4. Seek and accept God's encouragement through other believers (2 Cor. 7:6-7; Acts 19:22, 29; 20:4-6).
5. Appreciate God's sovereignty in all that seem to go "wrong" (1 & 2 Corinthians and Romans written!)

Open Door Bible Church 7-21-13
