



“Character to Carry You”

ACTS 20:13-24





AMO-
HRACE

Hellespont

BITHYNIA

Ancyra
Galatia

Tavium

Troas
Assos

Mysia

Adramyttium

Dorylaeum

Pessinus

Mitylene

Pergamum

Thyatira

PHRYGIA

CAPADOCIA
River Halys

CHIOS
Samos
SAMOS

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Antioch

Ephesus

Tralles

Hierapolis

Iconium

Trogyllium

Magnesia

Laodicea

Colossae

Pisidia

Lycaonia

Derbe

PATMOS
COS

Cos

Cnidus

LYCIA

PAMPHYLIA

REGNUM
MT. TAURUS

Tarsus

Rhodes

RHODES

Pataro

Myra

Perga
Attalia

CILICIA

“Character to Carry You” - Acts 20:13-24

I. A Transparent Life



I. A Transparent Life

1. Is not often found

I. A Transparent Life

1. Is not often found
2. Is often covered due to pride

I. A Transparent Life

1. Is not often found
2. Is often covered due to pride
3. Is able to be examined

I. A Transparent Life

1. Is not often found
2. Is often covered due to pride
3. Is able to be examined

II. A Man of Humility

I. A Transparent Life

1. Is not often found
2. Is often covered due to pride
3. Is able to be examined

II. A Man of Humility

1. Doesn't sound very humble

I. A Transparent Life

1. Is not often found
2. Is often covered due to pride
3. Is able to be examined

II. A Man of Humility

1. Doesn't sound very humble
2. True humility is:

I. A Transparent Life

1. Is not often found
2. Is often covered due to pride
3. Is able to be examined

II. A Man of Humility

1. Doesn't sound very humble
2. True humility is:

III. A Tender Heart

I. A Transparent Life

1. Is not often found
2. Is often covered due to pride
3. Is able to be examined

II. A Man of Humility

1. Doesn't sound very humble
2. True humility is:

III. A Tender Heart

1. He was not doing a job

I. A Transparent Life

1. Is not often found
2. Is often covered due to pride
3. Is able to be examined

II. A Man of Humility

1. Doesn't sound very humble
2. True humility is:

III. A Tender Heart

1. He was not doing a job
2. He allowed his emotions to show

I. A Transparent Life

II. A Man of Humility

1. Doesn't sound very humble
2. True humility is:

III. A Tender Heart

1. He was not doing a job
2. He allowed his emotions to show

IV. A Man Marked by Perseverance

I. A Transparent Life

II. A Man of Humility

1. Doesn't sound very humble
2. True humility is:

III. A Tender Heart

1. He was not doing a job
2. He allowed his emotions to show

IV. A Man Marked by Perseverance

1. A soft heart doesn't necessitate a soft man

I. A Transparent Life

II. A Man of Humility

1. Doesn't sound very humble
2. True humility is:

III. A Tender Heart

1. He was not doing a job
2. He allowed his emotions to show

IV. A Man Marked by Perseverance

1. A soft heart doesn't necessitate a soft man
2. He keeps going

I. A Transparent Life

II. A Man of Humility

III. A Tender Heart

1. He was not doing a job
2. He allowed his emotions to show

IV. A Man Marked by Perseverance

1. A soft heart doesn't necessitate a soft man
2. He keeps going
3. He gets the message out

Character to Carry You to Your End Acts 20:13-24, Sunday AM, October 30, 2022

Prelude – Scripture: Acts 20:6-24 We sailed from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and came to them at Troas within five days; and there we stayed seven days. ⁷ On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul *began* talking to them, intending to leave the next day, and he prolonged his message until midnight. ⁸ There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered together. ⁹ And there was a young man named Eutychus sitting on the window sill, sinking into a deep sleep; and as Paul kept on talking, he was overcome by sleep and fell down from the third floor and was picked up dead. ¹⁰ But Paul went down and fell upon him, and after embracing him, he said, “Do not be troubled, for his life is in him.” ¹¹ When he had gone *back* up and had broken the bread and eaten, he talked with them a long while until daybreak, and then left. ¹² They took away the boy alive, and were greatly comforted. ¹³ But we, going ahead to the ship, set sail for Assos, intending from there to take Paul on board; for so he had arranged it, intending himself to go by land. ¹⁴ And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and came to Mitylene. ¹⁵ Sailing from there, we arrived the following day opposite Chios; and the next day we crossed over to Samos; and the day following we came to Miletus. ¹⁶ For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. ¹⁷ From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. ¹⁸ And when they had come to him, he said to them, “**You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.**” ²² “And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴ “But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of the God.

We continue with Paul and company on mission. For them, it included moving from city to city. Doing what? Well, two weeks ago, we heard the result of their work—“the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified” and “the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing.” Today, Paul identifies His God-given mission as called to “testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.” What did this include? Travel plans, tentmaking to provide for food and lodging, but people were at the heart of the mission. Those prepared by God to receive the gospel must first HEAR the gospel, but then must understand it in a way that makes them turn toward God in worship, repentance, and obedience. They then must join the other believers and TOGETHER represent Christ before the world. The weight of this task combined with the shortness of the time and Paul’s need to move on made for some long talks and late nights. So the night before Paul left Troas, he preached until midnight. Eutychus, fast asleep in the window, interrupts the sermon by falling to the ground dead! While most of the time, dead means dead, this time, God confirmed the work of Paul by using him to display His power by raising him from the dead! Paul then continues to talk with them all until daybreak! Wow! Would you have stayed for the second “talk”? Wasn’t there enough for one night? For them, there was a God to be praised and a mission which must be carefully planned for daily execution. This first hymn calls Zion to haste—meaning, “people of God, fulfill your mission!” This comes from Isaiah 40:9 (NASB95) Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift *it* up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” Are you spiritually alive? Born again? **When God wakens souls from the dead, they are to tell someone.** Do you have a message to give? Is your responsibility to live and give that message constantly in front of you as you live the season of life God has you in right now? Christian Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace tidings of Jesus redemption and release.

*Hymn #298: O Zion, Haste

Redemption and Release—Romans 6, 8 remind us that these do NOT take place apart from being bound to God. No one is completely free. If this is restricting to you, it means you are not seeing yourself rightly nor are you understanding the gospel. The gospel speaks of the LOVE of God in saving us from being His enemies, and part of doing this is saving us from ourselves. You will only fulfill your mission to live and give the gospel of the grace of God if you see GOD Himself as the gospel—the good news. Christian, behold the love of God.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Magnificent, Marvelous, Matchless Love

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn Choir: Jesus, You are My Life Scripture: Jeremiah 20:1–18** When Pashhur the priest, the son of Immer, who was chief officer in the house of the LORD, heard Jeremiah prophesying these things, ² Pashhur had Jeremiah the prophet beaten and put him in the stocks that were at the upper Benjamin Gate, which was by the house of the LORD. ³ On the next day, when Pashhur released Jeremiah from the stocks, Jeremiah said to him, “Pashhur is not the name the LORD has called you, but rather Magor-missabib. ⁴ “For thus says the LORD, ‘Behold, I am going to make you a terror to yourself and to all your friends; and while your eyes look on, they will fall by the sword of their enemies. So I will give over all Judah to the hand of the king of Babylon, and he will carry them away as exiles to Babylon and will slay them with the sword. ⁵ “I will also give over all the wealth of this city, all its produce and all its costly things; even all the treasures of the kings of Judah I will give over to the hand of their enemies, and they will plunder them, take them away and bring them to Babylon. ⁶ “And you, Pashhur, and all who live in your house will go into captivity; and you will enter Babylon, and there you will die and there you will be buried, you and all your friends to whom you have falsely prophesied.” ⁷ O LORD, You have deceived me and I was deceived; You have overcome me and prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all day long; Everyone mocks me. ⁸ For each time I speak, I cry aloud; I proclaim violence and destruction, Because for me the word of the LORD has resulted in reproach and derision all day long. ⁹ But if I say, “I will not remember Him Or speak anymore in His name,” Then in my heart it becomes like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; And I am weary of holding *it* in, And I cannot endure *it*. ¹⁰ For I have heard the whispering of many, “Terror on every side! Denounce him; yes, let us denounce him!” All my trusted friends, Watching for my fall, say: “Perhaps he will be deceived, so that we may prevail against him And take our revenge on him.” ¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a dread champion; Therefore my persecutors will stumble and not prevail. They will be utterly ashamed, because they have failed, With an everlasting disgrace that will not be forgotten. ¹² Yet, O LORD of hosts, You who test the righteous, Who see the mind and the heart; Let me see Your vengeance on them; For to You I have set forth my cause. ¹³ Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD! For He has delivered the soul of the needy one From the hand of evildoers. ¹⁴ Cursed be the day when I was born; Let the day not be blessed when my mother bore me! ¹⁵ Cursed be the man who brought the news To my father, saying, “A baby boy has been born to you!” And made him very happy. ¹⁶ But let that man be like the cities Which the LORD overthrew without relenting, And let him hear an outcry in the morning And a shout of alarm at noon; ¹⁷ Because he did not kill me before birth, So that my mother would have been my grave, And her womb ever pregnant. ¹⁸ Why did I ever come forth from the womb To look on trouble and sorrow, So that my days have been spent in shame?

Offering: *Doxology: Be seated. Pastor Jahn is about to preach on the character needed to carry you to your end. Character is exposed under pressure, and today, the pressure comes from the weight of fulfilling the God-given mission. For Paul, this meant heading to Jerusalem after caring for these souls, even in the face of possible persecution—it wasn’t SAFE. The trenches of God-honoring ministry are rough for EACH faithful Christian. Just ask Jeremiah--beat up pretty badly, surrounded by much injustice, and seemingly little positive fruit for his labor. Today’s Scripture reading was a contrast to the life, focus, hope, and confident teaching and care we see from Paul and company, but both passages include parts faithful service to God. As you come against obstacles to fellowship with God and obedience to His mission, LOOK TO HIM! Remember His words carefully—don’t misrepresent either WHO He is, WHAT He has promised, or WHAT He has given you to be faithful. When you do, fight to get back inside the boundaries of His character, promises, and provision. Hope and joy for the Christian don’t come merely from your faithfulness, but from the power of God to give a Godward gaze that makes you faithful! Praise God for a gospel that made both Jeremiah and Paul faithful to the end. Sing this gospel!

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Free from Guilt and Free from Sin

Disciplined, focused people often focus on the project to the neglect of the people, but note both in Paul’s display of godly character. In today’s passage, he served **the Lord with all humility and with tears and did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house.** Next week, we will hear more time-consuming, life-draining discipleship and care even while

he focused on the rest of his life and mission. While we all have different situations and personalities, ALL of us are to have a mission centering on souls—one where God’s love includes a growing passion to see ones come to Christ and Christ fully formed in the believers around you. As pastor preaches, ask God for both this passion for souls as well as for the patience needed for this often slow and messy work. Pray this song with me.

***Hymn #306 (Red): A Passion for Souls**

Message: Character to Carry You to Your End Acts 20:13-24 *Hymn #379: Take My Life & Let It Be Prayer