

Recap of 6/26/22 message by Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 20:28-21:14

1. Paul urged the Elders (also called Pastors & overseers) to above all feed and protect the flock of God by teaching the Word of God and by confronting false teaching within and without the church.
 - “This is the business of the officers of the church. They are not to run the church, but they are to see that the church is fed the Word of God.” (McGee)
2. The organizing principle of a Christian’s life must be the glory of God.
3. To live for the glory of God is not to be shielded from difficult circumstances and pain but to glorify God through them.
 - “The more God loves you, the less He spares you.” (Fenelon)
 - “The Christian life is not an exemption from pain, not a shield from heartache and pain.” (Willimon)
4. God revealed what would happen to Paul to both test his resolve and prepare him for what was coming.
 - “Incidents at two stops along the way tested Paul’s commitment to face what lay ahead and assured him his fellow Christians cared.” (Richards)
 - “No one wants to face hardship and suffering but a faithful disciple wants above all else to please God. Our desire to please God should overshadow our desire to avoid hardship and suffering when we really want to do God’s will, we must accept all that comes with it—even the pain.” (Life Application Bible)
5. We must identify with God’s will in other believer’s lives, not our sympathies with what they are going through. We must pray for them and support them accordingly.
6. “Ultimately, our decisions must be guided by the Holy Spirit, not the emotions and opinions of other people.” (Richards)