

Unusual Accounts – Eutychus

Questions to discuss or think about

1. Are you an easily distracted person? Describe what this looks like for you.
2. Read Acts 20:1-12. What are your first impressions of this story?
3. In vv.1-2, we read twice that Paul was “encouraging” people and churches as he traveled. What do you think that means? (see below)

The word used here for encourage can have several different meanings:

1. *Instruction. To teach, preach, and instruct in the ways of truth, Scripture, and Jesus’ life.*
2. *Build each other up. It’s what we think of when we hear encourage, to build someone up, say they’re doing a good job. But Paul does more than that.*
3. *Urge, Exhort, Request & implore to do what is right. Not just to say you are doing good, but to challenge and ask one to do better.*
4. *Admonish. Telling someone that they have done wrong and offer correction.*
5. *Comfort in the love of Christ when they have failed or suffered loss.*

4. We know from Acts 24:17 and other passages that Paul was traveling to Jerusalem to deliver money to those who were in need. How might that be encouraging for those in Troas hearing about it?
5. In vv.7-12, how do you feel towards Eutychus? Are you sympathetic or critical? Why is that?
6. What does Paul’s reaction to Eutychus falling and dying show you about Paul?
7. Do you think he expected God to do a miracle and bring Eutychus back to life?
8. What are your expectations of God when it comes to difficult situations? Do you expect miracles? Do you expect God to “show up?”
9. How do you think this event affected how they celebrated communion that night?
10. Do you think there is a warning in this story about falling asleep?
11. How can we be encouraged by this story?