

GROW:

OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE



Ministering with Integrity & Love

Senior Pastor Beh Soo Yeong

Acts 20.1-38

Acts 20.1-6

When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia. ² He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, ³ where he stayed three months. Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia.



Acts 20.1-6

⁴ He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. ⁵ These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas. ⁶ But we sailed from Philippi after the Festival of Unleavened Bread, and five days later joined the others at Troas, where we stayed seven days.



1. Integrity in Ministry - Vocational

GROW:
OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

“You know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. ¹⁹ I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. ²⁰ You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house. ²¹ I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus....

²⁴ However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.

1. Integrity in Ministry - Vocational

GROW:
OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

²⁵ “Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again. ²⁶ Therefore, I declare to you today that **I am innocent of the blood of any of you.** ²⁷ For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God.



1. Integrity in Ministry - Financial

³³ I have not coveted anyone's silver or gold or clothing. ³⁴ You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions. ³⁵ In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

⁴ He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrhus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia.

Reflection & Response

- When it comes to witnessing and ministry, what is our motive and motivation?
- Who are we when nobody is looking?
- Common moral issues – Money, sex, power (cf. Heb 13.4-8)
- Non-moral issues when Witnessing? Teaching & preaching?
Shepherding & Care?
- Cautions: feedback & insecurity
- Praying, fleeing & accountability

2. Love for the Flock - Affection

¹⁷ From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church...

²² “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. ²³ I only know that in every city **the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me...**”

²⁵ “Now I know that **none of you** among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom **will ever see me again...**”

2. Love for the Flock - Affection

GROW:
OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

³⁶ When Paul had finished speaking, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. ³⁷ They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. ³⁸ What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship.



2. Love for the Flock - Affection

GROW:
OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

1 Thessalonians 2.7-8

⁷ ... Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸ so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

2. Love for the Flock - Caution

²⁹ I know that after I leave, **savage wolves will come** in among you and will not spare the flock. ³⁰ Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. ³¹ **So be on your guard!** Remember that for three years **I never stopped warning each of you night and day with tears.**

2. Love for the Flock - Caution

GROW:
OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

Key:

²⁸ Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

Personal Lesson

Reflection & Response

- As we witness and minister, do we do so out of a genuine love and affection? Do we cultivate affection & caution? Vulnerability?
- Especially for pastors and leaders, obligation or desire?
- Competence, giftedness vis-à-vis love (1 Cor 13.1-3)
- Cautions: unresponsive people & need to be needed
- Care, not mollycuddle. Love, not lord over

Ministering with Integrity & Love

GROW:
OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE

¹ Pet ^{5.1}To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder ...: ² Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; ³ not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

⁵ In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves to your elders.