



A YEAR  
*with*  
GOD  
*Daily Devotional*

DAY 34



A PUBLICATION OF GOD'S THRESHING PLACE  
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# DAY THREE HUNDRED & FORTY

*Acts 20 - 21*

*I Consider My Life Worth Nothing to Me*

From Miletus, Paul sent to Ephesus for the elders of the church. When they arrived, he said to them: you know how I lived the whole time I was with you, from the first day I came into the province of Asia. I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents. I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house.

I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are waiting. But none of these things move me; neither do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

***I do not count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy. The person who counts their life dear to themselves will make every decision on the basis of preserving it. The person who has surrendered the dearness of their own life makes decisions on the basis of finishing the race and completing the ministry. The two***

***orientations produce different lives. Paul chooses the ministry over the life, the race over the comfort, the completion over the preservation. What do you count dear?***

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

I know that after I leave, savage wolves will come in among you and will not spare the flock. Even from your own number men will arise and distort the truth in order to draw away disciples after them. So be on your guard. 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.

***It is more blessed to give than to receive. The only saying of Jesus not recorded in the four Gospels, preserved here in Paul's farewell address to the Ephesian elders. The blessing of the giver exceeds the blessing of the receiver. Not: giving and receiving are equally blessed. More blessed to give. The orientation of the life toward giving - of time, resources, love, service, the self - is the***

***orientation that produces the greater blessing. Give more than you receive.***

On the way to Jerusalem, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. He took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said: the Holy Spirit says, in this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles. When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered: why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.

***I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. The prophecy of the binding does not change the direction. The weeping of the people who love him does not change the direction. Paul knows what is coming and goes anyway. The readiness is not bravado. It is the settled decision of the person who has already counted their life as not dear to themselves. When the decision has already been made, the prophecy of difficulty does not change it.***

***Speak this over yourself today:***

*I do not count my life dear to myself. Finish the race. Complete the ministry.*

*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

*Proclaim the whole will of God. I am innocent of the blood of any.*

*The settled decision is not changed by the prophecy of difficulty.*

**TOMORROW - Day 341 Romans 1-3**

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel. Come back tomorrow.*

*Day 340 of 365*



**THE**

**STORY**

**WITHIN**

Within every person lies a story of hope, struggle, growth, and purpose. Join the journey of self-discovery as we uncover the lessons, courage, and inspiration hidden beneath life's experiences.

*Your story matters and its greatest chapter  
may still be ahead.*

**MON., TUES. & THURS.  
7:30AM & 6:30PM**

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