

*How to Change a City, part 3*  
Followers of a Compelling Cause  
Acts 20:17-38\*

This passage should make us stop and consider our response to the most compelling figure and cause in all of history. We will only change our city to the degree that we are absorbed by the compelling figure of Jesus Christ and His compelling cause.

Followers of a compelling cause engage culture (19-21)

Followers of a compelling cause exhibit certainty (22-25)

Followers of a compelling cause express courage (26-35)

Strength for the week

For your further study: Acts 20:17-38

Read 20:17-38 (Paul's address to the Ephesian elders)

1. What is unique about this speech?
2. What three terms does Paul use in addressing the church leaders (vv.17, 28)? What does each of these indicate? What is the significance of Luke's use of the plural to describe them?
3. Can you pick out the themes in this speech which recur in Paul's letters?
4. What evidence does Paul give of his past sincerity? Why does he need to do so?
5. What is it that is more important to Paul than his personal survival and comfort (23-24)? Why is this? What is more important to you than these things?
6. What does Paul urge the Ephesian elders to watch out for (28)? Why? To what extent do you watch out for them too?
7. What is noteworthy about Paul's example as a 'shepherd'?
8. What is the 'double duty' which shepherds of Christ's flock have?
9. What neglected obligation may be a 'major cause of today's theological confusion' (27)? Why is this so important?
10. What 'should inspire' Christian leaders 'to faithfulness'?<sup>2</sup>

\* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.

<sup>2</sup> John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Acts: The Spirit, the Church & the World*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1994), 434-435.