

**THE BIG IDEA:** When Jesus touches us, we leave differently than we came.

The Take-Off

Once, something very bad happened to me when I fell asleep in a very public place.

Many of you may have heard about my encounter with Susan on a bus headed to Florida, but for those of you who haven't, here it is for your listening pleasure!

[Share about Susan the drool-catcher]

Now, all of us have been in positions like this, haven't we? No, not times when we're tempted to catch someone's drool, but times when we can't keep our eyes open.

So all of us can relate to the young man that we'll be reading about today in Acts 20. We'll be starting in verse 7, and so let's just jump right in.

Along the way, we'll just stop and I'll point some things out to you and we'll see if we can learn a very simple, but powerful, truth.

**1. Verse 7**

**a. They met on the first day of the week**

- i) It's fair to ask why? Why did the early church start meeting on Sunday instead of Saturday? What about the command to keep the Sabbath holy?
- ii) Without trying to go into a ton of detail, let's just examine some important events that occurred on the first day of the week in Scripture
  - Jesus rose from the dead (John 20:1)
  - Jesus appeared to 10 of his disciples (John 20:19)
  - The following week, he appeared to all 11 disciples (John 20:26)
  - The Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, which was held on the first day of the week (Leviticus 23:16)
  - The first gospel message was preached (Acts 2:14)
  - The first baptisms took place (Acts 2:41)
  - Paul instructed believers to give their contributions on the first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:2)
- iii) Sunday became a HUGE day in the church because of the event of Jesus' resurrection
- iv) Sometimes people will say we should meet on Saturdays to honor the Sabbath, but here are some things to think about
  - They may say Sunday is so named in honor of the sun god in pagan worship, but Saturday is so named after the Roman god Saturn
  - All of the 10 commandments are repeated and incorporated into the NT except for one - the 4th one about the Sabbath
  - The NT never calls breaking the Sabbath a sin - Jesus is our Sabbath, our rest
  - Why Sunday? Because the resurrection changed everything.
  - Is it wrong to worship on another day other than Sunday? No, but it's better to worship EVERYDAY. (Galatians 4:10-11)

**b. Paul talked a long time**

- i) After a week in Troas, he was leaving the next day
- ii) He wanted to spend as much time with the people he loved as possible
- iii) We do what matters most for as long as we can if we think it's the last time we'll do it
  - Any parent who has tried to pry a child from a playground knows this is true
  - We don't want to stop - even if it goes on forever
  - What would you or I do if we knew this was the last time we'd see each other
  - The answer to that question reveals what matters the most to us
  - For Paul and the believers in Troas, it was the word of God and their relationships that were based on it

**2. Verses 8-11**

**a. A young man ran out of luck**

- i) Eutychus was a young man (probably early 20s) and his name means "good luck"
- ii) He was sitting in a window
  - on a ledge in front of an opening - no glass or bars

- more than likely to get a breeze because of all the candles in the room
- iii) He couldn't stay awake
  - One, Paul talked forever (Luke uses the phrase "on and on")
  - Eventually, he was so asleep that he couldn't catch himself (like we do when we get the nods, and like this man who fell asleep **STANDING UP!**)
  - He fell out the window and died when he hit the ground

**b. Nothing could stop the preacher**

- i) Not sure what you or I would have done in this situation
- ii) We deal with mild interruptions occasionally because we're a downtown, storefront church right?
  - the man who rides by on his lawnmower about once a month
  - the often perfectly timed barking and howling by Connie's dogs
- iii) But nothing like a young man falling from the third story and dying!
- iv) But Paul's response isn't to worry or fret, or for that matter, even stop preaching
- v) He just took an intermission and raised the boy from the dead during it
- vi) And in great preacher fashion, Paul let nothing keep him from finishing what he had to say, because verse 11 tells us that they grabbed some grub and talked until daylight

**3. Verse 12**

- a. Small details can mean big changes, and in this verse we find a detail that we'll totally miss if we're not careful
- b. To this point, we've listed a number of similarities between church then and church now
  - they met on Sunday
  - they ate together
  - the sermons were long
  - they had mood lighting
  - people fell asleep
  - even in the midst of all that, exciting things still happened (although we've not experienced the raising from the dead - yet)
- c. But in this last verse, we find one big difference between then and now
- d. They left church differently than how they came
- e. "The people took the young man home **ALIVE**"
- f. Luke made a point to include that one word just to make sure we understand one simple truth: **When Jesus touches us, we leave differently than we came.**
- g. Look at the progression: Eutychus was picked up dead (v. 9), raised from the dead (v. 10), and taken home alive (v. 12)
- h. For many of us, we get charged by Jesus without getting changed by Jesus
  - i. We say "That was a GREAT SERVICE!" as we head out the door no different than we were when we came in
  - j. If that had been the case in Acts, the boy would have been raised from the dead and then taken home dead. But he was changed by Jesus and he lived differently as a result.

The Landing

**When Jesus touches us (through Paul in this case), we leave differently than we came.**

It's not enough to have a Sunday morning testimony! Jesus wants your LIFE to be the story that others read.

You may have sensed Jesus in the worship and in the teaching of his word, but the real test is this: **WILL YOU GO HOME ALIVE?**

If you do, the people of God - just like in Acts 20:12 - will go home greatly comforted, too, because it will be proof positive that Jesus was here with us, because **when Jesus touches us, we leave differently than we came.**