

**WELCOME!**

**Friday Men's Breakfast**

# The Life of the Apostle Paul

## 1 Corinthians 11:1

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

## Philippians 1:21

For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

## Big Idea:

Paul modeled a life *surrendered* to Jesus Christ for us to follow.



# The Life of the Apostle Paul

**#16 – Third Missionary Journey: *Acts 20:17-38***

**Friday Men's Breakfast – May 7, 2021**









# BAND OF BROTHERS

<sup>17</sup> Now from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church to come to him. <sup>18</sup> And when they came to him, he said to them:

“You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, <sup>19</sup> serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; <sup>20</sup> how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable and teaching you in public and from house to house, <sup>21</sup> testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup> And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. <sup>24</sup> But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. <sup>25</sup> And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. <sup>26</sup> Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, <sup>27</sup> for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. <sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. <sup>32</sup> And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. <sup>33</sup> I coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. <sup>34</sup> You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities and to those who were with me. <sup>35</sup> In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

<sup>36</sup> And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. <sup>37</sup> And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, <sup>38</sup> being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship.



# Acts 20:17-38 (Farewell at Miletus)

## Big Idea:

**Don't Shrink Back from Living a Gospel-Centered Life!**

**ACTS 20:20 ; 20:27 ; Galatians 2:12 ;**

In just a little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay... But my righteous one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who **shrinks back**. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls – **Hebrews 10:37-39**

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## Big Idea:

**Don't Shrink Back from Living a  
Gospel-Centered Life!**

**1) LEAD BY SERVING**

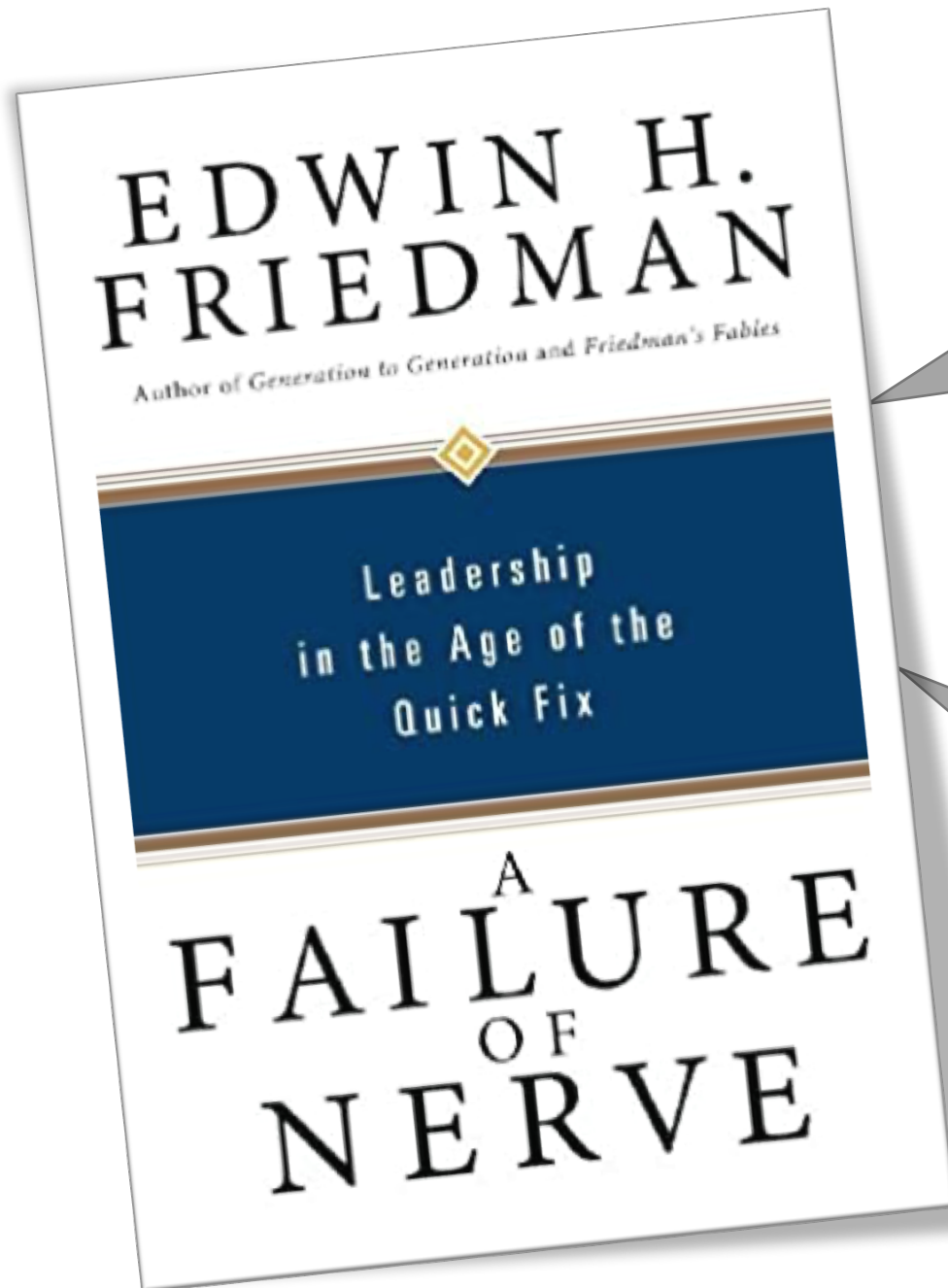
**2) KEEP THE GOSPEL IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS**

**3) BE ON YOUR GUARD**



# LEAD BY SERVING

20:18-19	<b>Transparency</b> <b>“serving the Lord”– Servant Leadership</b> <b>Humility - Phil 2:3 Consider Others</b> <b>I wept for you and over you</b> <b>I endured trials and hardship for you</b>
20:22, 26, 27	<b>Did not Shrink</b> from declaring to you anything that was beneficial – whole counsel of God – I didn’t water down or appeal to cultural norms (2 Tim 4:2) (Ezekiel 33:8-9)
20:21	<b>Integrity-</b> teaching you in public and from house to house, testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. <b>2 COR 4:2 &amp; 5</b>
20:22-23	<b>In step with the Holy Spirit</b> – I want to follow what’s next on God’s Agenda for my Life - response to the movement of God’s Spirit. The Holy Spirit was both the driving force to undertake this journey and the source of revelation about the dangerous outcomes.
20:22-24	I want to spend my life for His sake! He doesn’t back down from what God has called him into because he fears the risk, trouble, persecution or death. My times are in His hands. <b><i>Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.</i></b>
20:31	Took every opportunity to Instruct and warn you.
20:33	I am not in it for personal gain.
20:34 35	I carried my own weight – supplied my own needs and looked out for others especially the weak.



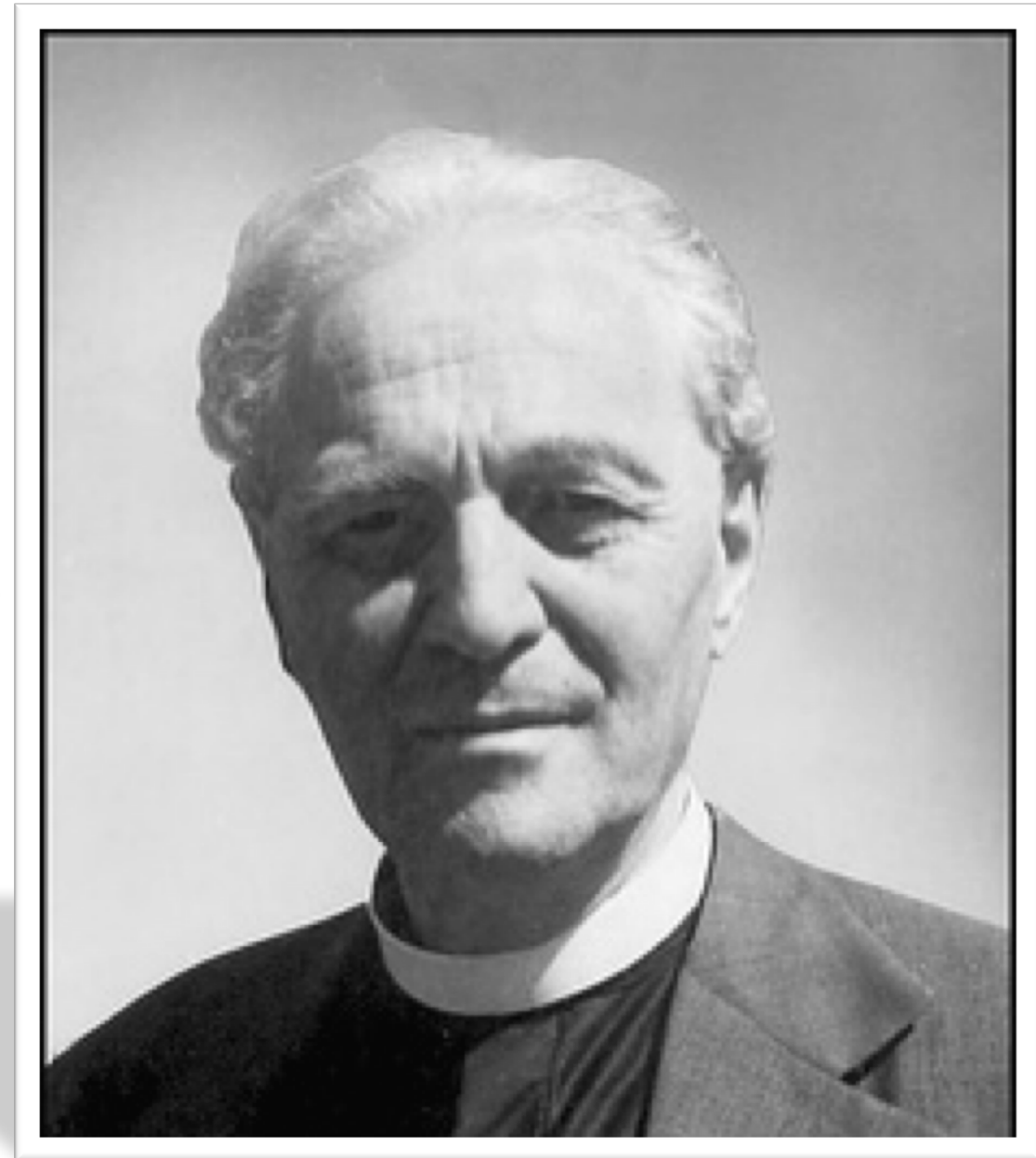
“**Sabotage** is not merely something to be avoided or wished away; instead, it comes with the territory of leading, whether the “territory” is a family or an organization

Leaders need “... to focus first on their own **integrity** and on the nature of their own presence rather than through techniques for manipulating or motivating others.”



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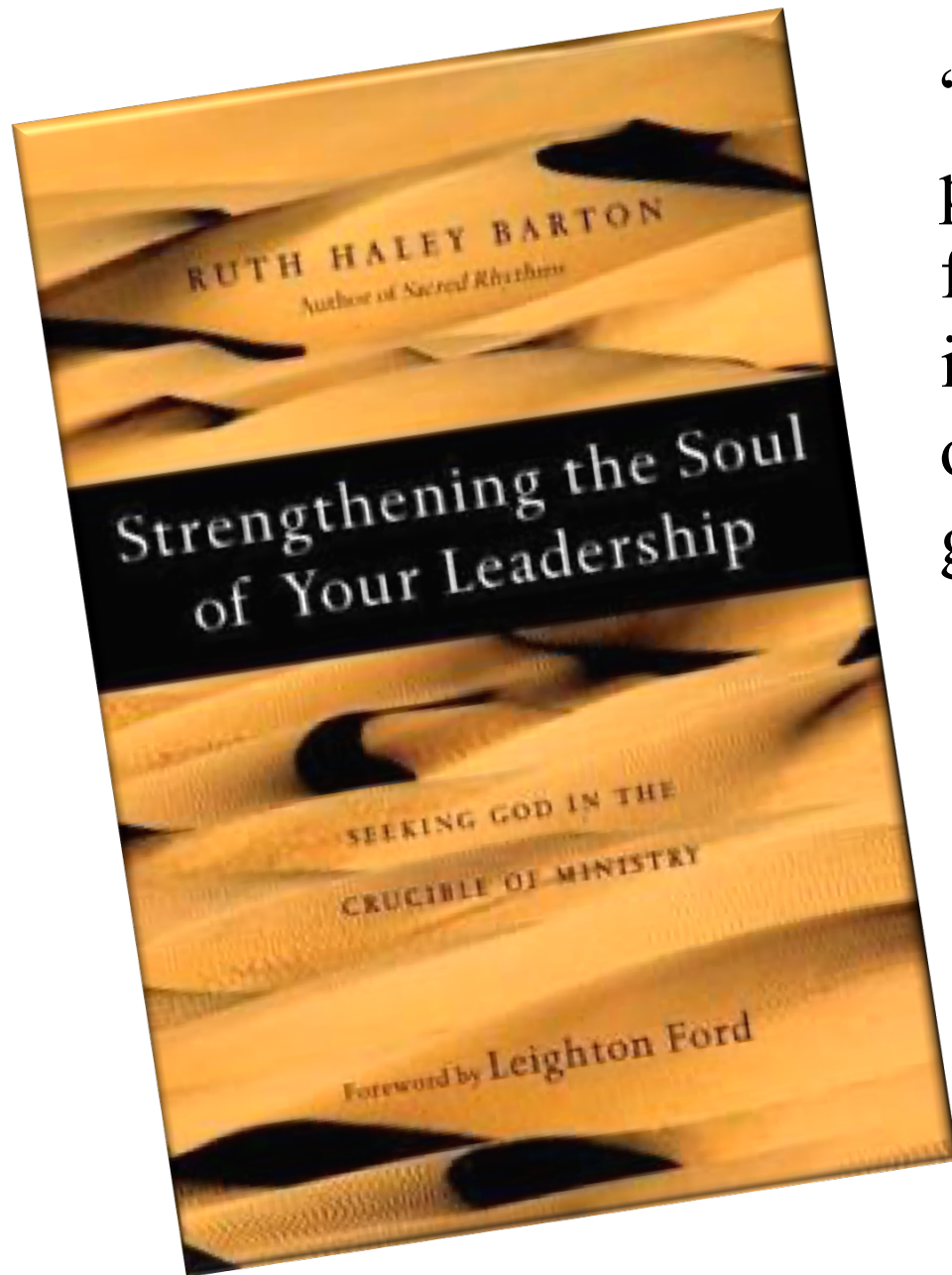
# KEEP THE GOSPEL IN YOUR CONVERSATIONS

- 20:21** Repentance toward God and Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ
- 20:24** Testified to the gospel of Grace
- 20:25** Proclaiming the Kingdom of God
- 30:32** Word of His Grace – His Word has power and transforms

**Col 1:5-6** , “because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, <sup>6</sup> which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth”.

# BE ON YOUR GUARD

<sup>28</sup> Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. <sup>29</sup> I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; <sup>30</sup> and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. <sup>31</sup> Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. <sup>32</sup> And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.



“Parker Palmer observes, "A leader is a person who must take special responsibility for what's going on inside him or herself, inside his or her consciousness, lest the act of leadership create more harm than good.”

“Truly, the best thing any of us have to bring to leadership is our own transforming selves.”



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# Discussion Questions

- 1) What has God put on your heart or nudged you towards that you are trying to eliminate the risks before stepping forward?**
- 2) What Gospel are you engaged in? Easy listening, ear tickling, risk avoidance, prosperity driven or one that calls you to take up the cross and follow Him?**
- 3) What changes are needed in your life in order that you may finish well?**

# MEN'S BREAKFAST

## Let Me Get Home Before Dark

It's sundown, Lord.

The shadows of my life stretch back  
into the dimness of the years long spent.

I fear not death, for that grim foe betrays himself at last,  
thrusting me forever into life:

Life with You, unsoiled and free.

But I do fear.

I fear the Dark Spectre may come too soon  
- or do I mean, too late?

That I should end before I finish or  
finish, but not well.

That I should stain Your honor, shame Your name,  
grieve Your loving heart.

Few, they tell me, finish well . . .

Lord, let me get home before dark.



## **Let Me Get Home Before Dark**

The darkness of a spirit  
grown mean and small,  
fruit shriveled on the vine,  
bitter to the taste of my companions,  
burden to be borne by those brave few  
who love me still.

No, Lord. Let the fruit grow lush and sweet,  
A joy to all who taste;  
Spirit-sign of God at work,  
stronger, fuller, brighter at the end.  
Lord, let me get home before dark.

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