1 – Could We Also Say?
Acts 20:17-35

2 - **Context Of Acts Chapter 20**

* **On Paul’s 3rd missionary journey, Paul requests to meet with the elders of the church in Ephesus in the city of Miletus.**
* **Paul had spent about 2 ½ years preaching in Ephesus earlier on his 3rd preaching tour. (Acts 19:8-10)**
* **Great results evidenced by the fact that “*all who lived in Asia heard the word of the Lord*” (how?) and that “*the word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing*” (Acts 19:20)**
* **Beginning in Acts 20:18, Paul reviews his time spent among them knowing he would not see them again. (Acts 20:38)**

3 - **Could We Also Say To Who…?**

* **Our families?**
* **Our brethren?**
* **Our neighbors and friends?**
* **Ourselves?**
* **God?**

4 - **That we were consistent and persistent in our walk as Christians? (Acts 20:18, 31)**

* **From the beginning to the end!**
* **“*The whole time*” indicates consistency as opposed to sporadically. (Daniel 6:16, 20)**
* **Not just when others are watching. (Phil. 2:12; 1 Pet. 2:11-12)**
* **Every day… (2 Corinthians 4:16, Hebrews 3:12-14)**

5 - **That we have dealt with our trials & tribulations with humility and love? (Acts 20:19)**

* **How have we reacted to trying times in front of our others? (Ephesians 4:1-3)**
* **What did the children see when the Israelites were in the wilderness? (1 Corinthians 10:10; Numbers 11:1-3)**
* **What do others see in us when trials are faced? (Acts 5:41; Jude 3; 1 Timothy 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)**
* **What do we shed tears for? (Psalms 119:136; Luke 19:41; Phil. 3:18)**
* **The exemplary brethren in Thessalonica. (1 Thessalonians 1:7)**

6 – **That we didn’t withhold anything that was profitable for them? (Acts 20:20, 27)**

* **We make sure that they have everything they need physically, socially & intellectually, but what about spiritually? (Cf., Luke 2:52)**
* **Have we made sure that they’ve been taught the “*whole purpose (counsel) of God*?” (Ephesians 6:4)**
* **What does that include? (Psalms 119:160; Jeremiah 26:2; Deut. 6:6-9)**
* **Physically or spiritually?**

7 - **That we demonstrated the need to finish what we started? (Acts 20:24)**

* **Do we teach (by example) the need to count the cost?
(Luke 14:25-33)**
* **Have we demonstrated in our marriage that we are committed until the end? (Matthew 19:3-9)**
* **Have we shown a commitment to continual spiritual growth? (2 Peter 1:5-9; 3:17-18; Hebrews 5:12-14)**
* **Do we talk about our commitment to the goal that is set before us? (Philippians 3:12-14; 1:21-24; 2 Timothy 4:-8)**

8 - **That the goal of our work was so that they could be successful independent of ourselves? (Acts 20:25-26, 32)**

* ***“Are each able to defend our faith?* (1 Peter 3:15)**
* **Are we equipped to do the work that is needed within the Lord’s church? (Ephesians 4:11-12)**
* **Will they be able to call God’s word to mind? (2 Peter 1:12-15)**
* **Will they have their own knowledge of God and His will? (2 Timothy 3:14-15; 1 John 2:2-3)**

9 - **That we have taught them what to beware of and how they are to protect themselves and others?** **(Acts 20:28-30)**

* **Are we aware of the spiritual dangers around us that they need to flee from? (1 Timothy 6:11; Romans 13:13-14)**
* **Do they know their adversary? (1 Peter 5:7-8)**
* **Not just to “flee” but also to “pursue”! (1 Timothy 6:11; Hebrews 6:18)**

10 - **That there are but two immutable things that we must lean on throughout our lives (Acts 20:32)**

1. **God, &**
2. **The word of His grace?**
* **Whom do we lean on? (Proverbs 3:5; 2 Chronicles 16:7)**
* **God will never forsake us! (Hebrews 13:5-6; Psalms 37:25; Romans 8:31ff)**
* **His word will endure forever! (1 Peter 1:23-24)**

**11 - That they can use our own lives as examples for themselves? (Acts 20:33-35)**

* **We’re all providing an example… What kind of an example is it? What kind of influence are we? One of being a hard worker?**
* **Are we an example of what a believer should be?
(1 Timothy 4:12; Philippians 3:17)**
* **Paul’s use of himself as an example. (1 Corinthians 11:1)**

**12 - Finally, we will be able to say …?**

* **I was obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 5:9)**
* **I continued to make things right before God throughout my walk as a Christian (1 John 1:8-9)**
* **I remained steadfast and firm to the end (Hebrews 3:14)**
* **I fought the good fight, finished the course and kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7-8)**