Winter Park Christian Church: James Price
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Paul's Example in Ephesus:

Your Calling, Your Battle, Your Legacy

Acts 18:18-20:38

Paul spent approximately three years in Ephesus. These chapters reveal a believer who followed God's calling, endured spiritual battles, and left a lasting legacy.

What Is Your Calling? (Acts 18:19-21; 19:1)

Key Verse (18:21): "I will return to you if God wills."
Do you believe God has you right where He wants you right now?

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."

Romans 8:28 "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose."

1 Corinthians 7:17 "Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches."

Paul viewed his plans through the lens of God's will. God's calling is often faithfulness in the place and season where He has positioned us.

What Is Your Battle? (Acts 19)

Paul's battles in Ephesus:
• Spiritual confusion (19:1-7)
• Demonic opposition (19:13-20)
• Cultural resistance and idol worship (19:23-27)
• Public hostility and riot (19:28-41)

Isaiah 41:1 "fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Romans 8:35-39 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, 'For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God does not always remove the battle, but He promises His presence in the battle.

What Is Your Legacy? (Acts 20:17-38)

Paul's example:
• Served with humility (20:19)
• Held nothing back (20:20,27)
• Invested in leaders (20:28)
• Finished faithfully (20:24)

2 Timothy 2:2 "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise."

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

What legacy are we leaving? Who are we discipling? Are we preparing the next generation of Christians, families, and leaders?

Calling leads to battles. Faithfulness in battle creates a legacy. God has a place for you now, strength for you today, and a legacy for you to leave.

Psalm 78:1-8 "*Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;*
incline your ears to the words of my mouth!
2 I will open my mouth in a parable;
I will utter dark sayings from of old,
3 things that we have heard and known,
that our fathers have told us.
4 We will not hide them from their children,
but tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,
and the wonders that he has done.
5 He established a testimony in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our fathers

to teach to their children,
6 that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and arise and tell them to their children,
7 so that they should set their hope in God
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;
8 and that they should not be like their fathers,
a stubborn and rebellious generation,
a generation whose heart was not steadfast,
whose spirit was not faithful to God.”

Endnotes: Unless otherwise noted, all scriptures are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016.
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