

RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP (LESSON 59)

THE TYRANNUS PLAN (CONTINUED). Paul's testimony to the Ephesian elders emphasized the need for an authentic life to be a radical disciple (Acts 20:17-32). Paul began by illustrating radical discipleship by using his own testimony: Radical disciples are humble (19). They proclaim the truth without holding back (20). They teach the truth publicly and from house to house (20). They don't neglect the preaching of repentance (21). They model their faith in tribulations (22-24). They preach the whole counsel of God rather than what people want to hear (27). The second part of Paul's message was a warning and a challenge for the future. They were to obey the Spirit (26). They were to protect the flock from predators and false prophets (29-30). They were to guard against covetousness (33-36). The Tyrannus paradigm is for radical disciples. Everything about Paul was radical. He got it from Jesus (Galatians 1:12). Paul's warnings don't appeal to most. This kind of discipleship does not appeal to most. Radical discipleship is costly. It cost Paul his freedom and eventually his life. Immediately after the completion of his journey Paul would be arrested in Jerusalem and taken as a prisoner to Rome. But that didn't stop him. When the Book of Acts closes, Paul is under house arrest "preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence..." (Acts 28:31). The only thing that changed about Paul was the distance from Miletus to Jerusalem. Radical disciples preach what they practice wherever they are.