

Acts 19:28-29; Acts 27:1-2; Colossians 4:10-11

Acts

²⁸When they heard this they were enraged and were crying out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” ²⁹So the city was filled with the confusion, and they rushed together into the theater, dragging with them Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s companions in travel.

¹And when it was decided that we should sail for Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to a centurion of the Augustan Cohort named Julius. ²And embarking in a ship of Adramyttium, which was about to sail to the ports along the coast of Asia, we put to sea, accompanied by Aristarchus, a Macedonian from Thessalonica.

Colossians

¹⁰Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, welcome him), ¹¹and Jesus who is called Justus. These are the only men of the circumcision among my fellow workers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.

Background

The apostle Paul was blessed by the ministry partnership and friendship of many followers of Jesus throughout his lifetime. He had travel partners (Luke, Barnabas, Silas), co-laborers in the mission in various cities (Priscilla and Aquila), and men into which he heavily invested his life as leaders in local churches (Titus and Timothy). Today, Pastor David will show us how one man, Aristarchus, was one of Paul’s greatest sources of encouragement because he was there for the “long haul.” Even in the midst of riots, imprisonments, and dangerous travel, every time Aristarchus is mentioned in the New Testament he is with Paul. What would it look like in our own lives if we not only recognized and celebrated those who have supported us along our journey, but we also desired to be with others as an encouragement throughout their lives?

Service Notes

What is your biggest takeaway from today’s message?

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What stood out to you in the message? What is one thought from the message that made you hopeful? What prompted questions? How can we pray for you this week?

Talk it Over

- ▼ **Read Colossians 4:10-11.** How does Paul describe Aristarchus (vs. 10)? What would this indicate about Aristarchus' location and condition? In what ways do you think Aristarchus (and Barnabas) were sources of “comfort” to Paul? How does this apply to our 21st century lives?
- ▼ **Read Proverbs 17:17 and 18:24.** Who is the person in your life that most exemplifies this verse or the kind of friend Aristarchus was to Paul? In what ways has their friendship and support shaped your life as a follower of Jesus? What have you valued most about this person and their friendship? Why?
- ▼ **Read John 15:12-17.** What does this passage teach us about friendship? According to Jesus, what is the distinguishing mark of one of his friends (vs. 14-16)? Why is this significant for our daily life? How does this passage stand counter-culturally to our modern setting?

Live it Out

- ▼ What is one way you could reach out and thank someone who has been a long-time supportive friend as you have followed Jesus? What is one practical way you can demonstrate being a “long-haul” friend to someone else this week?

