

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 20 13-24



Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.  
Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed,  
will come back with shouts of joy, bearing their sheaves with them.  
Psalm 126:6-7

## **Praising:**

Through many dangers, toils and  
snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe  
thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

## **Reading:**

Acts 20:13-24  
Paul heads for home

The travel itinerary completes Paul's third missionary journey and basically charts Paul's return to Palestine. The apostle is anxious to be in Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, the ancient Jewish harvest celebration which had acquired a whole new Christian significance with the coming in power of the promised Holy Spirit on the first apostles. Paul's conversation with the elders from Ephesus recalls the

emotional ups and downs of his time there, and in particular his tempestuous encounters with the Jews. Yet Paul is quite open-eyed about what is waiting for him back in Israel. More spiritual opposition is almost certain to come. This realistic appraisal of his situation leads Paul to his inspirational words about how valueless his life is, if only he can persevere faithfully for the Gospel right to the end.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Lord as we look back on the lives you have given us

- thank you for teaching us so much through the surprising and the unexpected
- thank you for the sense of your presence through the difficulties and disappointments
- thank for the reassurance that you will be with us until the end of the journey

Father: so often life's been a rollercoaster. I have learned so much through my experiences that I would never have chosen for myself. Prepare me I pray, for what still remains to come. Amen

## **Doing:**

Monday, 20 June 2016