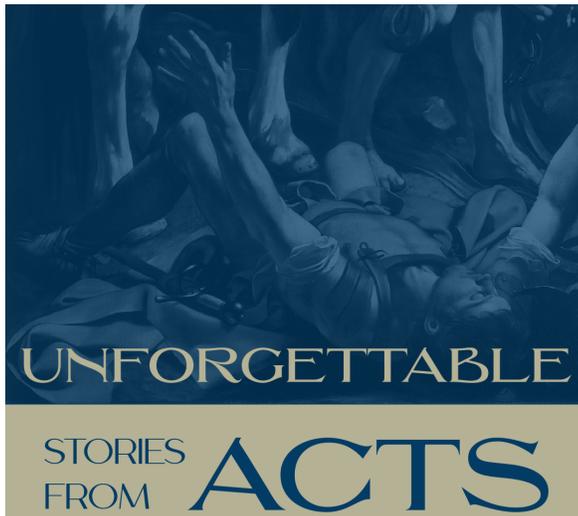


UNFORGETTABLE: EUTYCHUS

May 14, 2023

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Acts 20:7-12

7 On the first day of the week, when we met to break bread, Paul was holding a discussion with them; since he intended to leave the next day, he continued speaking until midnight. ⁸There were many lamps in the room upstairs where we were meeting. ⁹A young man named Eutychus, who was sitting in the window, began to sink off into a deep sleep while Paul talked still longer. Overcome by sleep, he fell to the ground three floors below and was picked up dead. ¹⁰But Paul went down, and bending over him took him in his arms, and said, 'Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.' ¹¹Then Paul went upstairs, and after he had broken bread and eaten, he continued to converse with them until dawn; then he left. ¹²Meanwhile they had taken the boy away alive and were not a little comforted.

REFLECT & DISCUSS

1. Read the passage slowly. Then take a deep breath and read it again. What word, phrase or image stands out to you?
2. Have you ever been so bored (or just tired) in church that you fell asleep or wish you had? What happened? What is it about a worship service that dis-engages you?
3. Why do you think the young person (Eutychus) needed to sit precariously perched on the window sill? How might this be a metaphor for how young people can be treated in a church?
4. Paul does something important. He stops preaching. He attends to the needs of the one fallen. This can show us not only preaching, but also all ministry and life, are *first* in service to healing, restoring, resurrecting. How can church work and programs sometimes distract us from suffering and real needs? Have you ever had an experience where you were so busy or focused on something—even something important—that you didn't see someone was missing or suffering? What happened and what did you learn?

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5. Paul attends to Eutychus and declares that “his life is in him.” Reflect on what it might mean to notice and declare life in people who are considered too far gone, too hopeless, or beyond repair.

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Sermon audio available at southelkhorncc.org/sermons