Leadership and Lifestyle: the portrait of Paul in the Mile speech and I Thessalonians

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This study contributes to debate about the portraits of Paul in Acts and his epistles by considering Paul's Miletus speech (Acts 20.18b–35) and identifies and compares major themes in Luke and Paul's views of Christian leadership. Comparisons with Jesus' speeches in Luke show how Lukan the speech is and, with 1 Thessalonians, how Pauline it is.

The speech calls the Ephesian elders to service after Paul's departure to Jerusalem, focusing on: faithful fulfilment of leadership responsibility; suffering; attitudes to wealth and work; and the death of Jesus. Paul models Christian leadership for the elders.

Parallels in Luke highlight his view of Christian leadership – modelled by Jesus and taught to his disciples, and modelled by Paul and taught to the elders. Study of 1 Thessalonians identifies a remarkably similar portrait of Christian leadership. The Miletus speech is close in thought, presentation and vocabulary to an early, indubitably Pauline letter.

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Leadership and Lifestyle

The portrait of Paul in the Miletus speech and 1 Thessalonians

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In memory of
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CONTENTS

Acknowledgements xiii
Abbreviations xiv

1 Why study the Miletus speech? 1
  1.1 The Paul of Acts / Paul of the epistles debate 2
  1.2 Luke’s knowledge of the Pauline epistles 14
  1.3 Review of previous work on the speech 17
  1.4 Orientation of this study 32

2 Are parallels in the eye of the beholder? 34
  2.1 Introduction 34
  2.2 Parallelism in Luke-Acts 34
  2.3 What kind of unity have Luke and Acts? 40
  2.4 A hierarchy of connections 44
  2.5 Acts and the Pauline parallels 47
  2.6 Conclusion 51

3 The Miletus speech in context 52
  3.1 Immediate context 52
  3.2 Literary genre 55
  3.3 Structure 66
  3.4 Overview of contents 75
  3.5 Themes 84

EXCURSUS 1: THE TEXT AND TRANSLATION
OF ACTS 20.28b 94

  4.1 Introduction 99
  4.2 Luke 22.14–38 100
Contents

4.3 Luke 12.1–53 118
4.4 Luke 21.5–36 128
4.5 Brief passages 130
4.6 Conclusion: leadership 134

EXCURSUS 2: THE TEXT OF LUKE 22.17–20 137

5 The Miletus speech and 1 Thessalonians 140
   5.1 Introduction 140
   5.2 Orientation to 1 Thessalonians 142
   5.3 From the Miletus speech to 1 Thessalonians 157
   5.4 From 1 Thessalonians to the Miletus speech 174
   5.5 Leadership in 1 Thessalonians 183
   5.6 Conclusions 185

6 The Miletus speech, Ephesians and 2 Timothy 186
   6.1 Ephesians and the Miletus speech 186
   6.2 2 Timothy and the Miletus speech 192
   6.3 Conclusion 198

7 Concluding reflections 199
   7.1 Review and summary of results 199
   7.2 Implications for study of the Miletus speech 201
   7.3 Implications for the Paul of Acts / Paul of the
       epistles debate 212
   7.4 Future work suggested by this study 213

Bibliography 215
Index of ancient texts 240
Index of modern authors 253
Index of subjects 255