

Hi, I'm Crawford Loritts with a Legacy Moment.

This may surprise you. Although I travel a great deal, I hate to say "goodbye," especially when our children went off to college, or when they go back to their homes with their spouses and children after a visit. We pray together, we hug, and yes we even wipe a few tears from our eyes. Then they're gone.

I've come to realize that farewells are part of life. Eventually, all of us will die and have our final farewells. The question is, are people sorry to see us go? I think of that sometimes. I'm like you, I've been places where I was glad to go. You know? It was nice to have a round trip ticket!

Such was NOT the case for the Apostle Paul in Acts chapter 20. Paul is leaving. Chances are he'll never see these folks again this side of heaven. He's labored for many months establishing the church at Ephesus. Verse 36 says, "And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And there was much weeping on the part of all; they embraced Paul and kissed him, being sorrowful most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they would not see his face again. And they accompanied him to the ship." What a moving scene! Here they are, gathered around this great warrior of the cross. They weren't saying, "See you later Paul, God bless you. Be praying for you." No, he had invested in their lives. God had spoken through him. They didn't want to see him go. They hugged, they kissed him, they bade him farewell.

Here's what I want you to remember today. Let's live, love, and minister in such a way that people will not want to see us go. Make it your goal to be a blessing and not a burden.