

Approximately Expository 40 minutes



★ Keep Speaking, Do Not Be Silent

An Expository Style Message Through Acts Chapter 18





Opening Prayer:


Father God, we come before You in the mighty name of Jesus. Thank You that You are faithful in every season in discouragement and in victory. As we open Acts chapter 18, strengthen our courage. Teach us perseverance. Remind us that You are always at work, even when we cannot see it. And Lord God, if anyone listening today does not yet know You personally, draw them into saving faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

★   **Historical Setting:**

Acts chapter 18 takes place during Paul's second missionary journey. After preaching in Athens, Paul arrives in Corinth one of the most immoral and powerful cities in the Roman Empire.

Corinth was a major commercial center. Wealthy, diverse, calculated but also known for corruption and immorality. The temple of Aphrodite  **Af-ruh-DYE-tee** dominated the city. Pagan worship and sexual immorality were normalized.





 If there was ever a difficult place to plant a church this was it.



 Yet Acts chapter 18 shows us that the gospel thrives even in dark places.

This chapter teaches us:

- God provides companions in ministry.
- God strengthens us when we are weary.
- God protects His servants.
- God uses ordinary people for extraordinary impact.

★ 1. God Provides Partners:

  (NIV) ***Acts 18:1-4 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. ² There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus  PON-tus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius  CLAW-dee-us had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, ³ and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. ⁴ Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.***

  Let us dive deep into this chapter and find out what is going on....

“After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.” (v.1)



Paul meets a Jewish couple Aquila and Priscilla.

They were tentmakers, just like Paul.

Verse 3 says:

“Because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.”

(v.3)

  Paul did not separate ordinary work from ministry. He made tents during the week, and then he preached and reasoned from the Scriptures on the Sabbath. In other words, Paul was willing to work with his hands while still staying faithful to the calling God had placed on his life.

! This teaches us something very practical and powerful:

There is dignity in honest work. Serving God does not always mean standing behind a pulpit full-time.

- Sometimes serving God looks like working a regular job, paying bills, helping people, building relationships, and **looking for gospel opportunities in everyday life.**

👉 Paul's workplace became part of his mission field. His trade connected him with Aquila and Priscilla, and that relationship became a powerful ministry partnership. God used their ordinary occupation to bring them together for an extraordinary purpose.

👉 So yes, there is ministry in the marketplace. There is ministry on the job site,

- in the office,

- in the shop,
- at the counter,
- in the classroom,
- and around the lunch table.
- 👉 Wherever God has placed you, He can use you there.

! Paul reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, but his faithfulness was not limited to one day a week. His whole life belonged to the Lord.


The gospel often advances through simple, steady, everyday faithfulness working honestly, living humbly, speaking truth when God opens the door, and trusting that God can use ordinary people in ordinary places for eternal impact.



★ **2. Opposition and Determination:**



(NIV)

Acts 18:5-8 ⁵ *When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia,*

 mass-uh-DOH-nee-uh **Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. ⁶ But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”**

⁷ Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titus  TISH-ee-us Justus, a worshiper of God. ⁸ Crispus,  KRIS-pus the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

When Silas and Timothy arrive, Paul devotes himself exclusively to preaching.

But verse 6 says:



“...When they opposed Paul and became abusive...” (v.6)

! Opposition came again.



Paul had already faced rejection in other cities, and now Corinth was no different. Some of the people resisted the message of Jesus. They did not simply disagree with Paul quietly they opposed him and became abusive.

That means their resistance became....

- harsh,
- hostile,
- and personal.

  This reminds us that when the gospel is preached clearly, not everyone will receive it gladly. Some hearts will be softened, but others will become angry.




 Paul was **not** being rejected because he was doing something wrong.

  He was being opposed because the truth of Christ confronts sin, pride, and unbelief.

 But Paul did not quit.

He did not let opposition silence him. He understood that his responsibility was to **faithfully proclaim the truth.**

- The response belonged to the hearers,
- but the obedience belonged to Paul.

   So once again, we see that opposition does not stop the gospel. Sometimes it simply redirects the ministry to those who are ready to listen.

Paul says:


“...Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” (v.6)

 He does not quit preaching.

 He redirects.

Then something beautiful happens.

Verse 8:



“Crispus,  KRIS-pus the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord....” (v.8)

Even leaders can come to faith.

“....And many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.”
(v.8)

 The gospel is powerful even in Corinth.

★ 3. A Word of Encouragement from the Lord:

  (NIV) **Acts 18:9-11 ⁹ One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: “Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. ¹⁰ For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I**

have many people in this city.”¹¹ So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

Now we see something deeply personal.

Verse 9:

“One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: ‘Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.’” (v.9)

 Why would God say that?

 Because Paul was likely discouraged.

- Corinth was hard.
- Opposition was intense.
- The culture was corrupt.

But God says:

“For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” (v.10)

What a promise.

Before these people ever believed, God already knew them. The Lord told Paul, **“...I have many people in this city.”** (v.10) That means God was already at work in Corinth before Paul could see the results.

👉 The city looked hard, sinful, and resistant, but God saw hearts that would eventually respond to the gospel.




- Paul may have only seen opposition, but God saw future believers.
- Paul saw difficulty, but God saw a harvest.

😞 That is why the Lord encouraged him to keep speaking and not be silent.




So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, patiently teaching the Word of God. He did not run when things became difficult. He stayed because God told him to stay. He taught, disciplined, strengthened new believers, and helped establish the church in one of the most unlikely places.


That is a powerful lesson for us:

- When God says stay ... stay.
- When God opens a door ... keep walking through it.
- When God tells you to keep speaking ... don't let fear silence you.

    Sometimes the place that looks the hardest may be the very place where God is preparing the greatest work.

★ 4. Legal Attack and Divine Protection:

  (NIV) **Acts 18:12-17** ¹² **While Gallio**
was proconsul of Achaia,  uh-KAY-
uh **the Jews of Corinth made a united**
attack on Paul and brought him to the
place of judgment. ¹³ **“This man,” they**
charged, “is persuading the people to
worship God in ways contrary to the
law.”

14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to them, “If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. 15 But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law—settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things.” 16 So he drove them off. 17 Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes  ***SAHS-thuh-neeZ*** ***the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever.***

The Jews bring Paul before Gallio, the Roman proconsul.

They accuse him of persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.

Before Paul can even speak, Gallio dismisses the case.



He refuses to treat it as a criminal matter.


God protected Paul exactly as promised.


- Sometimes God delivers through miracles.
- Sometimes through legal systems.

But always according to His purpose.

★ 5. A Growing Ministry Team

  (NIV) **Acts 18:18-23** ¹⁸ **Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken.** ¹⁹ **They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the**

synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined. ²¹ But as he left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God’s will.” Then he set sail from Ephesus. ²² When he landed at Caesarea,  sess-uh-REE-uh he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

²³ After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia,  FRIJ-ee-uh strengthening all the disciples.

Paul continues traveling with Priscilla and Aquila.

They arrive in Ephesus.

Paul reasons in the synagogue.

He then leaves but promises to return if God wills.

Paul did not treat his own plans as untouchable.

He made decisions,

- traveled,
- preached,
- and planned ahead ... but he always held those plans with open hands before the Lord.



When Paul said, **“...I will come back if it is God’s will,...”** (v.21) he was showing a heart surrendered to God’s direction. He had desires, but he did not demand his own way. He understood that God’s will was wiser, higher, and better than his personal preference.

 That is an important lesson for us.



It is good to plan. It is wise to prepare. But every plan should be placed under the authority of God. The believer should be able to say, **“Lord, this is what I would like to do, but I want Your will more than my own.”**

Paul’s life teaches us that faithful ministry requires flexibility.

- Sometimes God opens a door.
- Sometimes He closes one.
- Sometimes He says go.
- Sometimes He says stay.
- And sometimes He says wait.

  The key is this: God’s will matters more than our schedule, our comfort, or our personal preference.

★ 6. Apollos: A Teachable Leader

  (NIV) **Acts 18:24-28** ²⁴ **Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of**



Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. ²⁵ He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

²⁷ When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. ²⁸ For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

We are introduced to Apollos:



“He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.” (v.24)

Apollos was gifted, passionate, and sincere. Acts 18 tells us that he spoke with great fervor and taught accurately about Jesus, but his understanding was still incomplete. He only knew the baptism of John, which emphasized repentance and preparing for the coming Messiah.


  In other words, Apollos had truth but he needed fuller understanding.



He was **not** a false teacher trying to deceive people. He was a teachable man who needed someone to come alongside him and explain the way of God more completely.

That is where Priscilla and Aquila showed great wisdom.

  They did not embarrass him in front of everyone.

- They did not publicly correct him harshly. They took him aside privately and gently helped him understand the gospel more fully. That is a beautiful picture of discipleship.

 And Apollos responded with humility. Because he was teachable, God used him even more powerfully. He became a strong defender of the faith, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah.

  This reminds us that passion is important, but passion must be guided by truth. And knowledge is important, but knowledge must be shaped by humility.

Apollos had great potential, and through the faithful encouragement of Priscilla and Aquila, that potential became even more fruitful for the **kingdom of God**.

★ **What Acts 18 Teaches Us**

1. God Provides Community
You are not meant to serve alone.
2. Work and Ministry Can Coexist
Faithfulness in daily life matters.
3. Don't Quit When Opposition Comes
God may be doing more than you see.
4. Listen for God's Encouragement
"Do not be afraid... I am with you."
5. Stay Teachable
Growth requires humility.
6. God Has People in Every City
Even where darkness seems strongest.

★ **Salvation Invitation:**

Maybe you feel like Corinth

- Broken.
- Complicated.
- Messy.

But God says:

“I have many people in this city.” (v.10)

Maybe He’s talking about you.

Jesus Christ came for sinners.

- He died for your sins.
- He rose from the dead.
- He offers forgiveness and new life.

You **do not** have to clean yourself up first.

👉 You come as you are.

If you are ready to surrender your life to Jesus, pray this sincerely:

 Let us Pray....

“Lord Jesus, I believe You died for my sins and rose again.... Forgive me.... I am tired of living my own way.... I surrender to You.... Be my Lord and Savior.... Fill me with Your Holy Spirit.... In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

If you meant that prayer, you are saved.
God was pursuing you long before you
came to Him.

Welcome to God's family!!!

 **Closing Prayer:**

**Father God, thank You for Acts chapter
18. Thank You that You are with us in
hard cities and hard seasons. Thank You
that You tell us, "Do not be afraid."
Strengthen us to keep speaking.
Strengthen us to remain faithful. Help us
trust that You have people everywhere
ready to respond.**

**Continue building Your Church.
Continue saving souls.
Continue reminding us that You are
always with us.**

We give You all the glory.

In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.