



## Week 16 Acts 18:1-19:41 Making Friends & Enemies

### 18:1-17 In Corinth

1) What were some of the commonalities that Paul had with Priscilla and Aquila that made them natural partners in business and ministry?

2) Why do you think Paul worked at a tent-maker at this particular stop on his journey? What difference did it make to the Christians living in Corinth?

3) After a conflict with some Jews who opposed him, things seem to turn for the better when we learn that Crispus, the synagogue leader, becomes a follower of Jesus (v. 8). Does it make sense, then, for Jesus to appear to Paul in a vision saying, "Do not be afraid?" (Could there have been some fallout for Paul following Crispus' conversion?)

4) Discuss some times when you have had something good happen to you that then brought along new stresses/anxieties/reasons to fear (i.e. job promotion, new relationship, birth of a child)?

5) How would you describe the Roman procounsul's attitude toward the Jews and toward Paul in verses 14-17? What differences or similarities do we encounter from our own high-level political officials when they address issues of importance to people of faith?

### 18:18-28 In Ephesus

6) After a year and a half in Corinth, Paul makes the move to Ephesus. While Paul is away, a man named Apollos begins teaching at the synagogue, yet also needs further instruction from Priscilla & Aquila. What do you take away for your own walk with God from the bold yet in-process character of Apollos?

7) Priscilla is named before her husband Aquilla in 4 of 5 references in the New Testament. This indicates she was of a higher standing in society and in the church than Aquilla. What does this counter-cultural move (in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century) reveal to us about the nature of the early church?

### 19:1-22

For two years Paul ministered in Ephesus, following his pattern of reaching out to the Jews first, and then to the Greeks.

8) Luke selects an odd story about the sons of Sceva who fail in their attempt to exorcize a demon (vv. 13-16). What do you think is the reason for their failure? Given that reason for failure, do we see any parallel mistakes being made in our own church or society?

### 19:23-41

9) The impact of Paul's ministry on those who profited from idolatry was significant. A silversmith drummed up enough fear amongst his peers that they began a riot in the name of Artemis. Paul does not speak before the rioting crowd, but they are finally calmed down by the city clerk. What industries could be challenged by the preaching of the gospel today? What cautions must we take when trying to draw such parallels?