

Small Groups @ TBC Sermon Discussion Notes

Date of Sermon: Sep 10th 2017

Speaker: David Lawrence

Title: Working in Team

Introduction: Chapter 18 contains one of the fullest accounts that we have of how Paul operated when starting a church in a new town. One of the special features of the chapter is the descriptions of the way that other people worked alongside Paul in his ministry.

Review: Invite one or more who have heard the talk to give their own brief review.

Read: Acts 18

Reflect:

- Sometimes we can think of Paul as a confident, bold evangelist taking new ground for the Gospel. How does he describe his own arrival in Corinth (1 Corinthians 2:3).
 - Why might he have felt this way? (are there clues in Acts 13:50; 14:5; 16:22,23; 17:5, 13?)
 - In what three ways did God provide encouragement for Paul in Corinth (18:2; 18:5; 18:9-10)?
 - How can *friendship* help us overcome our fears? How did Aquila and Priscilla's friendship help Paul?
 - How can a *love gift* help us overcome our fears? How did the gift that Paul and Silas brought release Paul?
 - How would a *direct word from God* help us overcome our fears? How did God's personal word from God help Paul?
 - Talk about how your group can function to support one another through experiences that may cause you to be anxious or afraid.
- How does Paul reflect on his own sense of weakness in 2 Corinthians 12:10?
 - In what ways is Paul's weakness a vehicle for God's strength in Acts 18?
 - What examples do you have of God using you despite (or perhaps even because of) your weakness?
 - Our culture values strength over weakness, and assertiveness over self-denial. Which is more likely to help the spread of the Gospel?

Leaders: feel free to be selective and creative with your use of these notes.

Don't feel you have to use all of the material, but
do try to keep the shape of Review – Read – Reflect – Respond
and **DO make room for the 'And Finally' questions!**

Thornbury Baptist Church:

Following the Way of Jesus: Loving God - Loving One Another - Loving Neighbour & World

- Paul and all those who helped him in this chapter went through tough times as a result of leaving their former way of life and starting to follow Jesus. And yet they didn't turn back! Priscilla and Aquilla having once lost everything (v2) are willing to up sticks and move on again (v18). Sosthenes, despite being beaten for his faith (v17) becomes a co-worker with Paul (1 Corinthians 1:1).
 - How does Paul's teaching in Acts 14:21b-22 come true in Acts 18?
 - Is this a popular message today? Why / why not?
 - Is it a necessary message today? Why / why not?
 - In your experience is Christianity more often presented as 'come to Jesus and all will be well' or 'come to Jesus and it'll cause you a heap of trouble'? What truth is there in either expression?

And finally:

As you conclude, ask each person:

- What is the main thing you are taking away as an action point?
- How can we pray for you?
- Is there anything we can check on next time we meet?

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