

**Gripped by the Kingdom**  
**Text: Acts 18:1-17**  
**March 22, 2025**

**Big Idea: The faithful witness lives gripped by the Kingdom of God.**

**Context is key!**

**Question #1 (Context)**

*Ask Yourself: What is going on in the text?*

- a) What is the setting and what is happening?
- b) Who are the main characters?
- c) Are there any words/phrases that are repeated?

**Question #2 (Context)**

*Ask Yourself: What does the text say about God and about me?*

- a) Is God saying or showing something about Himself? If so, what?
- b) Do the words in the text predict, prophesy or picture something about Jesus? If so, what?
- c) Is God saying or showing something about us? If so, what?
- d) How does the text point to my need for Jesus? How?

A life gripped by God's kingdom...

**Point 1: POSITIONS for Kingdom IMPACT (vv. 1-4)**

*Question: All you have is from God and for God. How will you leverage it for His kingdom?*

**Question #3**

- a) Describe what Corinth was like. How would you feel heading into minister there? Why?
- b) **Rd. 1 Cor. 2:3:** How does Paul describe how he was feeling heading into Corinth?
- c) Describe how Paul, Aquila and Priscilla positioned themselves for Kingdom impact.
- d) Using their example, what are some ways that you can leverage your job, income and gifts right now for the kingdom of God? What would keep you from doing that? Why?
- e) Why is God's Kingdom the greatest thing we could ever leverage each part of our lives for?

A life gripped by God's Kingdom...

**Point 2: PURSUES the Kingdom OPPORTUNITY (vv. 5-8)**

*Question: No matter the response, God's Word gets declared. Will you take the opportunity?*

**Question #4**

- a) **Rd. vv. 5-8:** What did Silas and Timothy find Paul occupied with when they came to Corinth?
- b) Why is a heart gripped by God's Word the picture of a heart gripped by God's Kingdom?
- c) What does a life that is gripped by God's Word look like?
- d) When Paul was reviled & opposed (v.6), how did he respond? What opportunities did God open for him, because he didn't quit when he was opposed?
- e) What would Paul have missed if he did not pursue the opportunity God opened up for him?

### Question #5

- a) What do you find yourself most occupied with?
- b) Why does that have your greatest attention, passion and priority?
- c) What kingdom opportunities has God put around you that you need to pursue in declaring God's Word?
- d) What are reasons that you don't pursue the opportunities God gives you to declare His Word?

### Question #6

- a) What are the kingdom opportunities that we are always called to pursue?
- b) It is not always clear which opportunities we should pursue. What means has God given to us to know which ones to take?
- c) Are there any opportunities in front of you right now that you need to "take that hill"? What are they? What is hindering you from taking them?
- d) Spend time in prayer for one another over each of these.

A life gripped by God's Kingdom...

### Point 3: PERSEVERES on Kingdom PROMISES (vv. 9-17)

*Question: Discouragement will come, but God will keep His promises. Will you trust and obey?*

### Question #7

- a) **Rd vv. 9-17:** What do Jesus' Words to Paul indicate about how Paul was doing here?
- b) Even though it was hard for Paul, how can his state serve as an encouragement to us in witness?

### Question #8

- a) Paul was struggling with fear. What are the things you are afraid of in your witness? Why those?
- b) What were the 3 promises that Jesus gave to Paul here?
- c) Are all of these these promises exactly the same for us today too? If so, what's the same/different?
- d) How should each of these gospel promises encourage us, as they did Paul, to persevere in faith when we are discouraged?

### Prayer Application

Spend time as a group or in accountability praying out of **Acts 18:1-17...**

- a) ADORATION: Lord Jesus, Your Kingdom is\_\_\_\_\_
- b) CONFESSION: Lord Jesus, I repent that my heart is more often gripped by\_\_\_\_\_ than You.
- c) THANKSGIVING: Lord Jesus, I thank you for promise to\_\_\_\_\_
- d) SUPPLICATION: Lord Jesus, I pray for a heart increasingly gripped by Your kingdom with my\_\_\_\_\_.

### Memory Verse:

*"And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent, for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.'" -Acts 18:9-10*