

—○ RELIGIOUSLY DANGEROUS ○—  
STILL DON'T FEAR

### Acts 18:7-17

- 7 Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue.
- 8 Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized.
- 9 **One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent;**
- 10 **for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people."**
- 11 **He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.**
- 12 **But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal.**
- 13 **They said, "This man is persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law."**
- 14 **Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of crime or serious villainy, I would be justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews;**
- 15 **but since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves; I do not wish to be a judge of these matters."**
- 16 **And he dismissed them from the tribunal.**
- 17 **Then all of them seized Sosthenes, the official of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of these things.**

NRSV

### 1 Corinthians 1:1

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, (NRSV)

### Acts 18:17 (Barnes Notes)

**[Then all the Greeks]** The Greeks who had witnessed the persecution of Paul by the Jews, and who had seen the tumult which they had excited.

**[Took Sosthenes ...]** As he was the chief ruler of the synagogue, he had probably been a leader in opposition to Paul, and in the prosecution. Indignant at the Jews; at their bringing such questions before the tribunal; at their bigotry, and rage, and contentious spirit, they probably fell upon him in a tumultuous and disorderly manner as he was leaving the tribunal. The Greeks would feel no small measure of indignation at these disturbers of the public peace, and they took this opportunity to express their rage.

**[And beat him]** etupton. This word is not what is commonly used to denote a judicial act of scourging. It probably means that they fell upon him and beat him with their fists, or with whatever was at hand.

## ACTS 18:7-17

## INTRODUCTION

When I come across religious people that are only interested in judgment and not compassion, I stand highly concerned and sometimes afraid. Not afraid of their God, but afraid of the people.

When I'm more afraid of the people of a religion than their God, I find that there is a high level of dysfunction/malfunction. When I'm more afraid of you than of your God, your religion has failed or you have failed your religion.

## WHAT GOD SAID

### ACTS 18:9,10

**9 One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent;**

**10 for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people."**

1. DON'T FEAR
2. DON'T BE SILENT
3. I'M WITH YOU
4. NO ONE IS GOING TO HARM YOU

## WHAT PAUL DID

### Acts 18:11,14

**11 He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.**

**14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of crime or serious villainy, I would be justified in accepting the complaint of you Jews;**

1. 1 ½ YEARS HE TAUGHT RIGHT THERE AMONG THEM
2. WHEN DANGER CAME, PAUL DIDN'T HAVE TO DEFEND HIMSELF.
3. HE DIDN'T EVEN GET A CHANCE TO SPEAK ON HIS BEHALF

## WHAT RELIGIOUS PEOPLE DID

### Acts 18:12-13,17

**12 But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews made a united attack on Paul and brought him before the tribunal.**

**13 They said, "This man is persuading people to worship God in ways that are contrary to the law."**

**17 Then all of them seized Sosthenes, the official of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of these things.**

1. ACCUSE
2. ATTACK
3. TURNED THE ONE WHO WAS ATTACKED TOWARDS CHRIST