

# Acts 18:1-22 – 13 September 2020

## “When Timing Is Off...”

### Introduction

\*Paul has chosen Silas to return to the places Paul's already been to on his 1<sup>st</sup> trip, to strengthen them

\*But then on this 2<sup>nd</sup> Missionary Trip Paul / Silas / Timothy are led of the Lord to continue into Macedonia of Europe (what is Greece today)

\*Chap 17 they visited Thessalonica, Berea and then Athens

Today, Paul finishes his 2<sup>nd</sup> Trip with stops in Corinth & Ephesus.

Just as Paul, who's on mission for Christ, we too are on mission & it often seems that we hit roadblocks.

Many times, God's roadblocks aren't no, but just wait.

**Today, we'll see 3 examples of what we can be doing while we wait for God's timing to be right**

# #1 – When timing is off trying to convince someone of God – Go to a different person (Chap 18:1-11)

Read Vs 1-3

1. Aquila & Priscilla are either already Christians or they become so in next 1.5 yrs w/ Paul.
2. It's good when starting new things to seek out like common people.

Read Vs 4-6

1. There's a period of time to spend w/ people at religious centers, but if they reject msg...move on.
2. Paul's heart's desire is for all Israel to be saved

Application

1. Wasn't God's timing for all Israel as a nation to accept the Messiah
2. Oh, it's coming (Read Rom 11:25-26)
3. We can be like this, spending so much time w/ someone who's just rejecting the msg at every turn
4. Move on

- a. Yes, their soul is important
- b. But so are the souls of all the others we may be neglecting b/c we're fixated on the one who's rejecting.

Read Vs 7-8

- 1. W/ the religious establishment publicly against him, Paul uses one on one persuading
- 2. Justus' house is right next to the synagogue.
- 3. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue would have known what Paul was doing next door.
  - a. I'm sure Crispus heard worship & singing!!
  - b. We're told to live out loud!
    - i. Read Rom 11:11
    - ii. Let our satisfied lives provoke them!
  - c. Notice Crispus gets saved & it leads to a bit of a great awakening of Jews to Christ!
  - d. The original person Paul was witnessing to ended up saved b/c Paul left & went next door!
  - e. Same for us – go to a different person

## Read Vs 9-11

1. Paul wanted to go to the synagogue and change the establishment! All at once, let's do it!
2. Most often it happens one heart at a time
  - a. Rebuilding the temple under Zerubbabel
    - i. Upset that it was smaller than Solomon's
    - ii. Don't despise the days of small things.
    - iii. For I, the Lord, am w/ you, doing a great work!
3. Notice, God tell Paul the same thing here
  - a. Vs 10 – The basis for not being afraid is that God is with us
  - b. People will come against Paul, but they won't win. The gospel msg will have its way!
4. Notice also the joy in the Lord's msg to Paul
  - a. "I have much people in this city."
  - b. Many that are saved & many to be saved!
5. So Paul is encouraged to continue
  - a. Continue teaching the resurrected Christ
  - b. Continue teaching the whole Word of God

## #2 – When timing is off that the world isn’t limiting your freedom – Don’t get spiritually lazy (Chap 18:12-17)

Read Vs 12-13

1. Sosthenes, who's now the leader of the synagogue since Crispus was saved, takes Paul to the civil authorities.
2. Very dangerous if the gov't erroneously takes over dictating what worshippers can and can't do

Read Vs 14-16

1. Govt, church & family have different realms of authority & Gallio at least recognizes 2/3 of this.
2. Had Gallio claimed authority over Christianity here it would have been precedent thru the Empire
  - a. Notice vs 2 – There's already a push against the Jews in general.

3. Wasn't God's timing to persecute Paul & the whole of Christianity yet, but that time is coming
  - a. Fire in Rome – blamed on Christians 64AD
  - b. Same in America & many countries today
    - i. Do we think we have forever to use our freedom to talk to others of the Gospel?
    - ii. Read John 16:33
  - c. Don't get spiritually lazy
    - i. Turn to Luke 19:12-27 – Get busy, we only have limited time.
    - ii. Eph 5:16 & Col 4:5 – “Redeem the time”
    - iii. It all seems limitless...until chance is gone

Read Vs 17

1. It backfires on Sosthenes as he gets beaten w/ fists for raising such a trouble.
  - a. Would you laugh at Sosthenes?
  - b. Would you pray the Lord uses this to get Sosthenes attention?
  - c. Later Sosthenes is saved (I Cor 1:1)

## #3 – When timing is off for a new adventure – Go a different direction, it may come back around (Chap 18:18-22)

Read Vs 18-19

1. He's heading home toward Syria (Antioch)
2. Paul apparently consecrated himself to service by a Nazarite vow.
  - a. Abstaining from wine & things unclean
  - b. Nothing wrong w/ a Jew continuing in Jewish traditions, as long as the intention is to worship Jesus Christ in it.

Read Vs 20-21

1. The conclusion of the Nazarite vow was to offer the hair in a public ceremony in Jerusalem
2. Chap 16:6 – Paul wanted to go here to Ephesus on his outbound leg of this trip, but the Holy Spirit didn't allow it.

3. Wasn't God's timing before to go to Ephesus, but now it was time
  - a. What if Paul would have been frustrated and forced his way into Ephesus?
  - b. Remember Paul didn't pick up Timothy on 1<sup>st</sup> trip thru Lystra, but on the 2<sup>nd</sup> trip.
  - c. If God doesn't allow you to do a certain job or mission or project:
    - i. Go into a different job, project or mission.
    - ii. This isn't necessarily God saying no, maybe He's saying wait.
  - d. How many times do we just get frustrated and slow down or quit, instead of accepting God's redirection?

Read Vs 22

1. "Gone up" means Paul brought the good news to the Apostles in Jerusalem
2. Communicating to the Apostles not from harsh accountability, but for the joy of sharing!

## Conclusion

So 3 examples of what we can still do, even while the timing is off.

1. **If timing is off trying to convince someone of God – Go to a different person**
  - a. Yes we want THAT person saved, but don't limit God's work by fixating on the one.
2. **If timing is off that the world isn't limiting your freedom – Don't get spiritually lazy**
  - a. Take advantage, we only have a little time left
  - b. It's seems endless but it's not.
3. **If timing is off for a new adventure – Go a different direction, it may come around again**
  - a. Many just get mad at God, b/c their pet project isn't working.
  - b. Don't fall for it!!
  - c. Where God guides, He provides!
  - d. If God's not providing, then He's re-directing us...go with it.