



The Acts of the Spirit
DISTURBING THE PEACE

ACTS 18:24-28

“THE TEACHER”

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024

SUMMARY

As we continue in the Book of Acts, Pastor Joey highlighted a very unassuming but no less miraculous encounter in the life of the early church. This encounter was between a celebrity preacher and two ordinary disciples, both who wanted nothing more than to know Jesus and make him known to the whole world—so much so that they were willing to correct or be corrected in their own understanding of the Gospel of Jesus.

Luke tells of Apollos, an educated and talented speaker who arrived in the ancient city of Ephesus, reasoning and teaching about the Messiah Jesus to an audience. What he was saying wasn't wrong, but it was incomplete. Priscilla and Aquilla, tent makers who have learned under Paul's teaching, have the discernment and compassion to humbly take Apollos aside and explain what may be lacking in his understanding.

Miraculously, Apollos received this critique and gratefully began to change his teaching. He wanted nothing more than the Gospel of Jesus to reach the ends of the world.

Pastor Joey explains that this is remarkable but not common. That's because it's too common for the focus to fall off Jesus and inevitably land on the individual. This is a recipe for disaster and is common among churches today. But when the focus is on Jesus, we are bold enough to correct others like Priscilla and Aquilla AND humble enough to be corrected for the sake of others.

Pastor Joey encourages us to pay attention to three takeaways from the text.

1. To notice how the church grows primarily through ordinary people, like tent makers who take their discipleship to Jesus seriously.
2. To notice and emulate the character of Apollos. No matter someone's skill or training, we all must be under authority and teachable in spirit.
3. To notice that the church needs quality teachers—not celebrity preachers—to thrive.

But more importantly for us today, we must evaluate our common goal. Why do you come to Faith church? Is it our highest goal to keep our focus on Jesus and his mission? If so, we will stand to lose anything in pursuit of that goal, even our pride and preferences. But if it is not, we can't hope to be people growing in Christ's likeness or kingdom effectiveness.



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DISCUSSION

- Why did you first choose to attend Faith Church, and what keeps you at Faith Church now?
- What do you think is Faith Church's responsibility to its members? What do you think members' responsibilities to Faith Church are?

- There are likely many answers to those questions, but we see in the Book of Acts that our bedrock responsibility is to hold each other accountable for the most important things. We must be committed to correcting and taking correction (both ways) when we are incomplete in our understanding and discipleship of Jesus.
- We see this in Paul's correction to the Jews who clung closely to their tradition, and now from a lay leader challenging a teacher's incomplete doctrine. Likewise, we must be able to humbly challenge and take challenges from each other if we hope to avoid being "incomplete" in our faith.
- How would you rate our church in its ability to challenge and to take a challenge to grow?



This document can be used for either personal or group reflection.

Group facilitator: Please feel empowered to use only the questions that are helpful for the context of your group.

Extract the Truth

Read the text: Acts 18:24-28

- Let's read the text and mine it for principles that will help us grow into a complete faith by challenging and taking challenges from our brothers and sisters in Christ.
- What jumps out to you from the text?

Apollos was a rising star with a high-profile personality and above-average skill and training. Stereotypically, this type of combination in a leader does not take well to correction. Conversely, Priscilla and Aquila were lay leaders with no formal theological training. Their life experience would not have had the credibility on its own to challenge Apollos.

- What do you think was so different about Apollos, Priscilla, and Aquila that caused them to humbly offer correction and humbly take correction?
- What do you notice about Priscilla and Aquila's approach and focus of their correction, and how might that be a template to make a healthy challenge?
- We can challenge or take challenges when the focus isn't on ourselves but on a goal that is bigger than us. What common goal did they share that would have allowed them the humility and confidence to challenge each other?



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Experience Transformation

Pastor Joey challenged us to consider the following:

- “Why are you at Faith Church? And...
- “How does that align with what a church should look like in the Book of Acts?”

If we can answer that question honestly, we can realign ourselves to the shared mission God has given us to grow in our discipleship to Jesus and invite others into new life in Him.

- If we can do that, we can continue to let go of our preferences and pride and take the challenge to reap the greater fruit of being a church on the front lines of God’s mission.

Prayer