



**The Acts of the Spirit**  
FLIPPING THE GREEK WORLD  
UPSIDE-DOWN

# ACTS 18:18–23

“THE REUNION”

SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

## SUMMARY

Some of us are naturally messy; some of us are naturally more orderly.

Neither is bad—both are good, and when we hold each other in tension we make a stable, peaceful, lively, and creative world. But if we get out of whack, without each other, we fall into disordered chaos or controlled lifelessness.

The same is true for our churches. This week Pastor Joey highlighted a biblical principle we all must embrace: a healthy, growing church is going to be messy. This is because to meet people's needs for growing in their relationship with Jesus, we have to be out on the front lines with them and all their messy sinfulness, helping to disciple them into the Kingdom of God.

Even if it's chaotic, it's alive and on mission.

Pastor Joey highlighted this biblical truth in Paul's church planting strategy. He never left a mature church behind. He left healthy, maturing, growing, messy churches.

Pastor Joey didn't advocate being messy for the sake of being, but rather being okay with a mess because that means we are fulfilling our purpose of building the kingdom. To be a church on the front lines of God's mission, we must embrace the mess that comes with it.

No matter our personal preferences we must be eager to join God on the messy front lines of salvation. The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

Let's discuss how we can strive to be a church alive and on the front lines of ministry.

## DISCUSSION

- What do you hope our church is like in 3–5 years?
- How does our church currently stack up to that standard?
- How do you think we should get there?



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.



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Extract the Truth

Read the text: Acts 18:18-23

- How would you summarize Paul's church planting method in the Book of Acts? What patterns do you see?

Pastor Joey highlighted that Paul never leaves behind a mature church in the Book of Acts. He preaches, raises up leaders, and moves on. He leaves them messy, which comes from being alive, growing, and healthy.

- Why is this a winning strategy the church used for thousands of years?

Pastor Joey said this is a winning strategy because Paul leaves these people with God's word and the Holy Spirit. However chaotic, they are on the front lines of people's sin and seeing lost people come to Jesus which is where God is.

But just like being physically healthy, growth always comes at the cost of sacrifice, discipline, discomfort, and challenge. Therefore, to be a healthy church, we must make some opportunity-cost trade-offs to fulfill God's adventure: the Great Commission.

- What are some of the costs, risks, and/or challenges we must absorb to be a healthy growing church?
- But what could the rewards be?

## Experience Transformation

- What do you think God wants our church to look like in 3-5 years, and what would it feel like to achieve that goal?
- What will it require of us to get there?
- Would it be worth it?

Pastor Joey ended his sermon by saying he prayed that he would come to church one day and find a new person "sitting in his seat." Although growth is disruptive, let's challenge ourselves to remember our ultimate goal and seek to become a messy but growing church.

## Prayer