**Feb 4 Lesson 19 Acts 18: Corinth, and Antioch, Apollos and Priscilla**

In our last lesson, Paul and Silas traveled to Thessalonica where they preached in the synagogue for three weeks about scripture that pointed to Jesus as the promised Messiah. Again, those Jews who did not agree with their teaching first organized a riot of sorts, then tried to have them arrested, with charges of treason. (Calling Jesus either a Messiah or king could be an act of treason.) When they could not locate Paul and Silas, they had Jason arrested. Paul and Silas had stayed with Jason for a time. Paul and Silas were put on a boat to Beroea in the middle of the night in order to escape yet another imprisonment. In Beroea, they again preached the Word, but news of their preaching reached those back in Thessalonica. Paul again leaves to escape additional trouble, but Silas and Timothy remain in Beroea. Paul moved on to Athens. The philosophers of Athens listened intently, especially to the teachings on resurrection. Paul preached about the living God and drews analogies to their alters to “an unknown god.” Paul’s teaching is accepted by some and scoffed at by others, but he did find some followers. Among those were Dionysius and a woman named Damaris.

1. **When did you feel closest to God this week? Was there a particular verse or message in this week’s lesson from Acts 18 that you found inspiring?**
2. **Check your footnotes for information about Aquila, Priscilla and Emperor Claudius. Read Acts 18:1- 4. What do we know about Aquila and Priscilla? *Why were the Jews forced to leave Rome?***

**Acts 18:1- 4** **1**After this he left Athens and went to Corinth. **2**There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. He went to visit them **3**and, because he practiced the same trade, stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. **4**Every sabbath, he entered into discussions in the synagogue, attempting to convince both Jews and Greeks.

1. **Bible trivia: What was Paul’s trade or profession? See Acts 18:1-4.**
2. **Paul seems to be getting frustrated with the Jews who do not accept Jesus as the Messiah. What does he do to illustrate his feelings? See Acts 18:5-11.**

**Acts 18:5-115**When Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began to occupy himself totally with preaching the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus. **6**When they opposed him and reviled him, he shook out his garments, and said to them, “Your blood be on your heads! I am clear of responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” **7**So he left there and went to a house belonging to a man named Titus Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next to a synagogue. **8**Crispus, the synagogue official, came to believe in the Lord along with his entire household, and many of the Corinthians who heard believed and were baptized. **9**One night in a vision the Lord said to Paul, “Do not be afraid. Go on speaking, and do not be silent, **10**for I am with you. No one will attack and harm you, for I have many people in this city.” **11**He settled there for a year and a half and taught the word of God among them.

1. **What does God do to encourage Paul and lift his spirits?**
2. **Check footnotes for information about Crispus, and review Acts 18:5-11 above. *Reflection: How important was it to have him baptized along with his family?***
3. **Check footnotes for information on Gallio. Why was he not inclined to hear the case against Paul?**

**Acts 18:12-1612**But when Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews rose up together against Paul and brought him to the tribunal, **13**saying, “This man is inducing people to worship God contrary to the law.” **14**When Paul was about to reply, Gallio spoke to the Jews, “If it were a matter of some crime or malicious fraud, I should with reason hear the complaint of you Jews; **15**but since it is a question of arguments over doctrine and titles and your own law, see to it yourselves. I do not wish to be a judge of such matters.” **16**And he drove them away from the tribunal. **17**They all seized Sosthenes, the synagogue official, and beat him in full view of the tribunal. But none of this was of concern to Gallio.

1. **Compare Acts 18:12-16 above to Matthew 27:22-24. How are these incidents similar?   
   Matthew 27:22-24** Pilate said to them, “Then what shall I do with Jesus called Messiah?” They all said, “Let him be crucified!” **23**But he said, “Why? What evil has he done?” They only shouted the louder, “Let him be crucified!” **24**When Pilate saw that he was not succeeding at all, but that a riot was breaking out instead, he took water and washed his hands in the sight of the crowd, saying, “I am innocent of this man’s blood. Look to it yourselves.”
2. **Paul left Corinth and traveled on to Cenchreae and then to Ephesus. Who did he take with him? In what city did Paul leave them? See Acts 18:18-23.**

**Acts 18:18-2318**Paul remained for quite some time, and after saying farewell to the brothers he sailed for Syria, together with Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut because he had taken a vow. **19**When they reached Ephesus, he left them there, while he entered the synagogue and held discussions with the Jews. **20**Although they asked him to stay for a longer time, he did not consent, **21**but as he said farewell he promised, “I shall come back to you again, God willing.” Then he set sail from Ephesus. **22**Upon landing at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch. **23**After staying there some time, he left and traveled in orderly sequence through the Galatian country and Phrygia, bringing strength to all the disciples.

1. **Who is Apollos? What gifts does he bring to the Church in Ephesus and later in Corinth? See footnotes and Acts 18:24-28 and 1 Corinthians 3:4-9.**

**Acts 18:24-2824**A Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, an eloquent speaker, arrived in Ephesus. He was an authority on the scriptures. **25**He had been instructed in the Way of the Lord and, with ardent spirit, spoke and taught accurately about Jesus, although he knew only the baptism of John. **26**He began to speak boldly in the synagogue; but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the Way [of God] more accurately. **27**And when he wanted to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. After his arrival he gave great assistance to those who had come to believe through grace. **28**He vigorously refuted the Jews in public, establishing from the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

**1 Corinthians 3:4-94**Whenever someone says, “I belong to Paul,” and another, “I belong to Apollos,” are you not merely human? 5 What is Apollos, after all, and what is Paul? Ministers through whom you became believers, just as the Lord assigned each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused the growth. 7 Therefore, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth. 8 The one who plants and the one who waters are equal, and each will receive wages in proportion to his labor. 9 For we are God’s co-workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.