

Acts 18:1-18 (ESV)

¹ After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

² And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them,

³ and because **he was of the same trade** he stayed with them and worked, for they were **tentmakers by trade.**

⁴ And he **reasoned** in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to **persuade** Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

⁶ And when they **opposed** and reviled him, he **shook out his garments** and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

⁷ And he left there 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 ruler of the synagogue, believed in the Lord, together with his entire household. And many of the Corinthians hearing Paul believed and were baptized.

⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, **“Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent,**

¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to harm you, for I have many in this city who are my people.”

¹¹ And he stayed 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 saying, “This man is persuading people to worship God contrary to the law.”

¹⁴ But when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or vicious crime, O Jews, I would have reason to accept your complaint.

¹⁵ But since it is a matter of questions about words and names and your own law, see to it yourselves. I refuse to be a judge of these things.”

¹⁶ And he drove them from the tribunal.

¹⁷ And they all seized Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him in front of the tribunal. But Gallio paid no attention to any of this.

¹⁸ After this, Paul **stayed** many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow.

A Template for how to do things.

1. He was of the same trade – Had something in common with them – V 3

³ and because **he was of the same trade** he stayed with them and worked, for they were **tentmakers by trade.**

2. Explain it – Paul reasoned and attempted to persuade them v5

⁴ And he **reasoned** in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to **persuade** Jews and Greeks.

3. Opposition means you have to sometimes leave it. V6

⁶ And when they **opposed** and reviled him, he **shook out his garments** and said to them.

What is this shaking out of garments? It is a symbolic way of saying – “I can no longer take responsibility for you.!” There comes a time when [people are told and ministered to when you just have to admit they don’t want what you have to offer.

4. Just as sometimes you have to give up, sometimes you have to hang in there. V9

⁹ And the Lord said to Paul one night in a vision, **“Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent**

5. Sometimes you need to hang around to finish the job. V18

¹⁸ After this, Paul **stayed** many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila.

Already been there a year and six months. Sometimes ministry takes time. When you find the people you are to work with – spend time with them.