

# **“M3- Man, Moment & Movement”**

## **The Birth and Spread of the Church: ACTS**

***“You’ve Got A Friend”***

**August 2, 2020 – (33)**

### **Text: Acts 18**

Everyone faces adversity and must find ways to persevere through the discouraging moments of life. From Acts 18 and Paul’s life we see five (5) ways to get through those times:

#### **1. FRIENDS – v.2-5 -**

Cross reference(s): Proverbs 17:17a; 27:6a

#### **2. F \_\_\_\_\_ – C \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ – v.6-8**

#### **3. FAVOR OF GOD – v.9-11**

The content of the vision given to Paul by the Lord provides us with four reasons NOT to give up:

1. He C \_\_\_\_\_ it – ***“Do not be afraid, but go on speaking and do not be silent...”***
2. He reminds us of His presence – ***“<sup>10</sup>for I am with you...”***
3. He references being l \_\_\_\_\_ – ***“...no one will attack you to harm you...”***
4. He repeats that the “fields are ripe” – ***“...for I have many in this city who are My people.”***

#### **4. F \_\_\_\_\_ ADVERSARIES – v.12-17**

#### **5. A “FLIGHT” H \_\_\_\_\_ – v.18-23**

### **Sermon-Based Study Guide (and personal reflection)**

Opinions vary: The phrase ***I have many people in this city*** (v. 10) brings a difference of interpretation for some. **Q.** – Does it mean people already converted like Elijah’s seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal (1 Kings 19)? OR is the Lord projecting the vast number of believers who would make up the rather large Corinthian congregation before Paul left the city? What’s your take?

Think of the ways God communicates to people in the Bible. Take a few moments to share and list some of the ways and to whom?

God’s capacity to rule over the affairs of men is not limited to a people group or a nation or inside a religious context. We see that here in Acts 18. Take time to consider the following texts – and others you can think of – that spotlight the Lord’s sovereign control. (SEE Psalm 2; Proverbs 21:1, 19:21; Daniel 4, 6, 7...)

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You may need a “friend” to help you weather the discouragement(s) that life is throwing at you and/or feel unable to cope on your own. We’d recommend some helpful ministries:

- LIFE Groups – our primary small group ministry
- Celebrate Recovery – private, confidential gender groups
- Stephen’s Ministry – one-on-one care

Most of all, you may feel the need for ***“...a friend who sticks closer than a brother”*** (Proverbs 18:24). That would be Jesus. We’d be honored to introduce you.

*Contact us if you’d like to talk more.*