



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Mission Adventure Series, Lesson 58

Lesson Title: Paul in Corinth

Take Home Point: Speak up for Jesus.

Warm-Up:

What do the children in your small group do when they have some really good news about themselves or their families to share with you? How do they act? Are they afraid to say anything because of what someone else might think? Do they not say anything and just quietly go about the activities and discussion? Do they worry that they might forget part of it, or that they won't say it just right? And do they typically wait until the end of the group time to say something? Not likely! They are so excited to tell you what is going on that they can't wait. And they won't tell only you, they will relate it to just about anybody who is willing to listen. They may even tell you more than once! They don't care; it's part of them and they want to share it.

Read: Acts 18:1-17 and John 3:16

Observation (What happened?):

Why did the Lord tell Paul he was to stay and keep on speaking?

How did the Roman proconsul Gallio deal with the attempt by the Jews to get Paul into trouble?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why do you think the Lord told Paul not to be afraid?

What did Paul mean when he said he was clear of his responsibility?

Insight:

When Jesus returned to heaven to sit at God's right hand, Acts 1:15 tells us there were about 120 believers on earth. During his few years of ministry, Jesus taught and healed many people. But he did not teach or heal everyone in the world. That was never his intent. Jesus established the pattern he wanted his disciples to follow throughout the centuries: every person who believes tells others about Jesus the Rescuer. That's how Jesus reaches the world, through those who love the world as he does. Best of all, we don't do it alone. Jesus promised to be with us, to send a Helper to aid us in our living and witnessing. Over and over he told his disciples not to be afraid. Even Paul, the example of missionary zeal we so admire, could be susceptible to his fear. God understands us better than we do ourselves. He knows Satan will try to use our pride and fear of rejection to stay silent. But with the Holy Spirit working in, through, and around us, we can trust his power to save and not depend on our own efforts. It's the work of God to convict of sin and open eyes to see Jesus as Savior. Our work is to live a life of love and introduce Jesus to others. What a wonderful partnership!

Application (What does it mean to me?):

Who around you needs to hear the gospel?

How is God preparing you to say what they need to hear? Pray for his courage, strength, wisdom and love to speak.

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