

LESSON 1 — MANY IN THIS CITY

BEGIN: [Tell the Second Sermon Story/Lesson]

1. FOCUS SCRIPTURE: PAUL'S MINISTRY IN CORINTH

- Acts 18:4–8 (KJV)
- Paul reasons in the synagogue, persuades Jews and Greeks
- Silas and Timothy arrive; Paul is stirred to testify that Jesus is the Christ
- Opposition arises; Paul separates and turns to the Gentiles
- Crispus believes; many Corinthians believe and are baptized
- This marks a major transition in Paul's ministry

2. REASONING, NOT FORCE: HOW TRUTH IS PRESENTED

- "He reasoned in the synagogue" (v.4)
- Greek: *dialogomai* = to dialogue, discuss, reason together
- God invites examination, not blind acceptance
- Truth is not forced—it is understood
- **WARNING:**
 - **Be cautious of anyone who will not study their doctrine with you**

3. THE POWER OF FELLOWSHIP

- Silas and Timothy arrive (v.5)
- Likely brought encouragement, support, and resources
- **RESULT:**
 - Paul is strengthened and energized
- **PRINCIPLE:**
 - There is power in fellowship
 - There is strength in connection
- **ILLUSTRATION:**
 - A lion targets isolated prey (1 Peter 5:8)
 - Isolation increases vulnerability; connection provides protection

4. WHEN TRUTH IS REJECTED

- Paul testifies that Jesus is the Christ (v.6)
- **RESPONSE:**
 - "They opposed themselves"
 - "They blasphemed"
- This is deliberate rejection, not lack of evidence
- **COMPARISON:**
 - Matthew 26:74 — Peter's denial shows how rejection can intensify

5. RESPONSIBILITY AND RELEASE

- "I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles" (v.6)
- Shaking the garment = separation and fulfilled responsibility

- SCRIPTURE:

- Ezekiel 3:19 — warning delivers the soul of the messenger

- KEY INSIGHT:

- Paul did not walk away in frustration
- He walked away in fulfillment

6. GOD HAS NOT FORSAKEN HIS PEOPLE

- Turning to Gentiles ≠ abandoning Israel

- SCRIPTURE:

- Romans 11:1–2 — God has not cast away His people
- Romans 10:1 — Paul still desires Israel's salvation

- PRINCIPLE:

- God's mission expands, it does not replace

7. UNEXPECTED RESULTS OF FAITHFUL PREACHING

- Acts 18:8 — Crispus believes with his household
- 1 Corinthians 1:14 confirms Paul baptized Crispus
- LESSON:

- You never know who will receive the Word

- APPLICATION:

- Keep preaching
- Keep praying
- Especially for your family
- While Paul separates, the Holy Spirit continues working

8. THE PREACHER'S STRUGGLE

- 1 Corinthians 2:1–3

- Paul describes:

- Weakness
- Fear
- Trembling

- INSIGHT:

- God's power is not dependent on human confidence

9. GOD ENCOURAGES THE WORKER

- Acts 18:9–10

- "Be not afraid... for I am with thee... I have much people in this city"

- SIMULTANEOUS REALITY:

- Crispus is being converted (Acts 18:8)
- Paul is being strengthened (1 Corinthians 2:1–3)

- PRINCIPLE:

- The gospel works on the listener and the preacher

10. KEY TAKEAWAY: MANY IN THIS CITY

- God still has people ready to receive truth
- Even in opposition
- Even when the preacher feels weak

- FINAL CHARGE:

- Keep speaking
- Keep trusting
- God still has people

...and be encouraged, dear friend!