

Date: March 16, 2026

Today's Reading: Acts 18

## Discipleship and Encouragement

By: Todd Hershberger

Are you Apollos? Are you Priscilla or Aquila? Acts 18 shows us different skill sets and ways to impact the kingdom. Have you considered your gifts and skills and how you can make an impact?

Let's first look at Aquila and Priscilla, tentmakers. Not a flashy job, just working with their hands and providing for their family. Paul meets them, they share common interest and skill sets, and most importantly their love of Christ. Simple people, but passionate about their faith. They support Paul, listen to his teaching, and grow in their faith. The time comes for Paul to leave and they go with him. They were disciplined by Paul, they encouraged Paul in his journey, and they had willing hearts and lives to do what God had for them.

Apollos is an eloquent speaker. He is passionately speaking in the synagogues and sharing Jesus with everyone he encounters. Priscilla and Aquila hear him teaching and realize he doesn't know all the truths of the scripture, so they disciple him. Apollos grows in knowledge, he is encouraged by the people, then goes on his own mission journey.

Look at the process:

Paul **disciplined** Priscilla and Aquila. Priscilla and Aquila **encouraged** and supported Paul. Priscilla and Aquila go with Paul and then **disciple** Apollos. Apollos uses his skills to take the gospel to a new place.

Who are you disciplining?

Who are you encouraging?

How are you helping the gospel of Jesus Christ go out to your neighbor and the nations?

This is a beautiful picture of different skill sets impacting the kingdom of God.

Are you Apollos? Are you Priscilla or Aquila?

Prayer: Lord help me today to find my purpose in the process. Help me to encourage a fellow Christian. Help me take the knowledge you've given to me and disciple someone. God, I surrender to your will in my life, use me. Amen

Tomorrow's Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1

Date: March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Today's Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1

Has your Faith Fizzled

By: Todd Hershberger

Most of us have had the experience of hearing and seeing a tire go flat. That slight leak gives off a "hissing" sound as it goes flat. Often you can't even hear it, you can just start to see the evidence of the leak in the tire. When you get to a tire shop, they add a liquid to the outside of the tire to see where the leak is according to the bubbles. Can we all agree that there are times in our life when our faith is like a tire with a leak. It's not necessarily noticeable to everyone, but we know in our hearts and minds that there's a problem.

Paul, in 1 Thessalonians commends them for having strong faith. Because of their faith, Paul says "everywhere we go we find people telling us about your faith in God." Their faith in God precedes their reputation. They have full assurance in their faith in God and it has become the cornerstone of who they are.

In Hebrews 11 we see:

- Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen
- By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as on dry land
- By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days.
- By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient

Faith is important!

As Christians, God has given us the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. We must be strong in our faith, when doubt creeps in, we lower our shield and open ourselves up to the fiery arrows. May it be said of us today as it was said of the Thessalonians, "everywhere we go we find people telling us about your faith in God". Be bold in your faith, don't let it fizzle.

Prayer: Father, you know my heart today. May my faith in you be the foundation of my life. Forgive me for doubting, forgive me for losing sight of you. Help me today to refocus and strengthen my faith in you. Help me to grow in my faith and share you with those around me. I love you.

Tomorrow's Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2

Today's Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2

Date: March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Pleasing People

Two profound portions of this chapter that will challenge all of us:

- ***“we speak, not to please man, but to please God”***
- ***“Nor did we seek glory from people”***

Pleasing people versus Pleasing God is a daily battle. It dictates our actions, words, thoughts, and relationships.

#### Attributes of Pleasing God

- Faith and Trust: Hebrews 11:6
- Obedience to His Will
- Bearing Fruit
- Humility

#### Attributes of Pleasing Man

- Controlled by Opinions: Being led by the fear of man rather than the fear of God.
- Superficiality: Focusing on "eye-service" acting only when others are watching.
- Compromise: Sacrificing truth to avoid conflict or gain popularity.

Paul clearly states their motives, and in that, he challenges us to reset our hearts on pleasing God. What a waste of a life to spend our days trying to please people. It's a battle, that as Christians, we must fight.

Prayer: Father, it's so easy for me to fail in this area. I want my life to be spent pleasing you and living your will for my life. Help me today to reset my heart, actions, and motives on you. I desire to please you father, help me to live that out. Amen

Tomorrow's Reading: 1Thessalonians 3

Today's Reading 1Thessalonians 3

Date: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Overflow

By: Todd Hershberger

March Madness always brings out the passion and love people have for their college basketball teams. The tournament brings out everyone's emotions and team colors. As a Syracuse fan, we had (key word had) some great moments, and in those moments, I have let my joy and love for my team overflow. In those tournament highs, I was loud, bold, and so excited to let everyone know who I was a fan of.

"Let your love for other people overflow, just as our love for you overflows". Paul, at the end of the chapter encourages them to love people. Loving people is hard sometimes. People can be demanding, discouraging, and difficult. But, when we love people in a way that it overflows, it makes a huge impact.

Does your love for people overflow? Not a love for their personalities, or their actions, but loving them in a way that encourages them, and points them to Christ. A true love, a love that cares, a love that's messy and real.

***<sup>12</sup> and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, as we do for you,***

An overflowing love.

What if our love for people, and a desire to see them come to Christ and live for Christ, equaled the love of our favorite team. May our love for people overflow.

Prayer: Father, give me a heart for people. A fresh heart and a fresh passion to see people in a new way. May the love I have for you Overflow into the people I meet. Amen