

Redirection
Acts 18:1-11

- I. Intro
 - A. Baby Dedication
 - B. NPU Testimonies
 - C. Ministry is a sacred and holy response to God.
 - D. And ministry can be shaped and changed as God directs and immediate obedience is best.
 - E. Ive not often seen immediate obedience...
- II. Text
 - A. Verses 1-4: Paul goes about his normal procedure, what was comfortable to him.
 - B. Verse 5:
 - 1. Silas and Timothy arrive, the team is reconnected
 - 2. But Paul was occupied with the word, teaching and trying to persuade the Jews.
 - C. Verse 6:
 - 1. Paul makes a statement
 - 2. Shook out his garments
 - 3. Said: your blood be on your own heads
 - 4. I am innocent
 - 5. I'm going to the gentiles
 - a) This is where he had been sent anyway
 - b) This was the calling from chapter 16, now made clear by God
 - D. Verses 7-8:
 - 1. Immediate obedience
 - 2. He literally shook of his clothes and went next door
 - 3. But the results had effect on the Jews as well
 - E. Verses 9-10
 - 1. The clarity of the call, and the trust in the God of the call
 - 2. God is challenging Paul to be bold, and to leave the results to Him.
 - 3. Fear can get in the way of everything
 - F. Verse 11
 - 1. Paul stayed a year and a half with the people of Corinth
 - 2. The letters he wrote later, were challenging to them, but also sent from someone who had a real relationship with them
- III. Point
 - A. Ministry needs to be refined
 - 1. Paul has been in a process of being refined by God in his ministry since it began
 - 2. Paul was naturally drawn to people who had been raised like him, but God was sending him to reach another people group.
 - 3. Notice, the refining of the ministry came with great emotion, and difficulty
 - 4. God is doing the same thing in each of us today.
 - a) There is a pattern though...
 - (1) God makes his will and calling clear
 - (2) We attempt to partially do the thing, and dabble a little
 - (3) We then sometimes try to avoid God's directive completely
 - (4) We also engage in negotiations with God...that usually is fruitless
 - (5) But, then, for those of us that don't follow quickly, we have to get shocked into change.
 - b) Paul knew where he was sent, but until this point he was not done with his own plan...
 - 5. Then God did something really cool, as is His pattern.
 - B. Ministry will produce results
 - 1. The Results are a reminder that God is in control

2. The results came from a strange and rare place, obedience.
 3. Crispus, ruler of the Synagogue, came to faith!
 4. Paul was teaching next door...He had left them to their own decisions
 5. God is the one that brings the results
 - a) We are to be obedient
 - b) We are to follow the plan
 - c) God will bring the harvest
- C. Ministry is most effective in relationship
1. Paul stayed with them 1 1/2 years
 2. He then wrote to them a scolding letter if correction.
 - a) The perspective of this letter makes sense now
 - b) He spoke to them as someone who knew them intimately.
 3. 1 Corinthians was written to a church in which Paul had friends, and deep relationships.
 4. 1 Corinthians 1:1-17
 - a) We see this to be a letter to friends, and ministry associates.
 - b) But Paul doesn't back off, in fact, he expects more.
 - c) They are to be reminded of the testimony, and stop the disunity and divisions.
 5. Paul spoke clearly, was right in content and delivery, and did so out of a place of relationship.

IV. Close