

Accusations, Wisdom, and Witness
The Power of Speech
Acts 18:12-28

Keywords and Phrases*

Alexandria (v. 24)	Antioch (v. 22)
Caesarea (v. 22)	Cenchreae (v. 18)
Encouraged (v. 27)	Ephesus (v. 19)
Galatia and Phrygia (v. 23)	Law (v. 13)
Scriptures (vv. 24, 28)	Synagogue (vv. 17, 19, 26)
Syria (v. 18)	Tribunal (vv. 12, 16, 17)

*Keywords may vary depending on Bible translation

Critical Thinking Questions

1. What was the accusation that the Jews had against Paul? Were they speaking of their law or Roman law (compare Acts 6:13; 21:28; 25:8)?
2. What is the significance of Gallio's action resulting in the beating of Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue (see 1 Corinthians 1:1)?
3. Upon his arrival in Ephesus, Paul made his way to the synagogue. How can this action of Paul be understood in the context of his earlier expressions and conduct in Acts 18:6?
4. How do Paul's journeys and activities in this passage reflect his response to the vision and the message he received from the Lord during his time in Corinth (refer to Acts 18:9-10)?
5. What is the significance of Luke, including the story of Priscilla and Aquila, explaining the way of God more accurately to Apollos (Acts 18:26)?

Analyzing the Scripture

Jews

- made a united attack on Paul (v. 12).
- seized Sosthenes and beat him (v. 17).

Gallio

- rejected the complaint of the Jews (vv. 14-16).

Paul

- traveled to Syria (v. 18).
- cut his hair for a vow (v. 18).
- traveled to Ephesus (v. 19).
- reasoned with the Jews in the synagogue (v. 19).
- visited the churches in Caesarea and Antioch (v. 22-23).
- strengthened the disciples in Galatia and Phrygia (v. 23).

Priscilla and Aquila

- traveled with Paul to Ephesus (v. 19).
- explained to Apollos the way of God more accurately (v. 26).

Apollos

- was an eloquent man (v. 24).
- was competent in the Scriptures (v. 24).
- instructed in the way of the Lord (v. 25).
- was fervent in spirit (v. 25).
- spoke and taught accurately about Jesus (v. 25).
- greatly helped the disciples in Achaia (v. 27).
- powerfully refuted the Jews in public (v. 28).

Reflection Question

How can you use the power of speech to mentor, encourage, and strengthen others in the faith?

“And when he wished to cross to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. When he arrived, he greatly helped those who through grace had believed”
(Acts 18:27 ESV)