

# ACTS

PART TWELVE: ACTS 18:19



# ACTS

God's Mission

God's People

God's Power

## INSIGHTS FROM EPHEBUS

**INSIGHT #1: THERE IS ALWAYS MORE TO LEARN (Acts 18:24-28)**

### A. Facts about the City of Ephesus

1. It was a port city so it was strategic from a trading standpoint.
2. Scholars say the population was about 250,000
3. Intellectual center of Asia.
4. Boasted one of three largest libraries of the ancient world.
5. Home to the temple of the goddess Artemis - one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
6. Had a theatre that would seat 25,000 people. If you visit Turkey today you can see this theatre as it has been excavated.

**Priscilla and Aquila meet Apollos (Acts 18:24-25)**

### B. Facts about Apollos

1. He had a thorough knowledge of scriptures.
2. He had been instructed in the way of the Lord.
3. He spoke with great fervor.
4. He taught about Jesus accurately
5. However, verse 25 says he knew only the baptism of John.
6. Scholars don't all agree but the bottom line is Apollos was lacking in some areas of his knowledge about Jesus.
7. Priscilla and Aquila helped him out according to verse 26.

**INSIGHT #2: THE PATH WE ARE CALLED TO, WILL NOT ALWAYS BE EASY (Acts 19:1-10)**

### A. Paul finds some disciples and starts teaching them (vs 1-4)

1. Different scholars have different points of view on where disciples were at in their faith journey.
2. I just want us to know that as a church we will always have people at different places on the road on their own spiritual journey.
3. Like Paul, we need to be ready to meet people where they are at.





**"WE EACH TAKE ABOUT 23,000 BREATHS EVERYDAY,  
WHICH MEANS WE OWE GOD, 23,000 THANK-YOU-S."  
- MARK BATTERSON**

**B. PAUL MOVES TO HIS NEXT AUDIENCE;  
THE JEWS IN THE SYNAGOGUE (vs 8)**

1. This lasted for 3 months until some made it too difficult for Paul to continue to teach there.

**C. PAUL MOVES ON TO REACH OUT TO  
THE GENTILES AT THE HALL OF  
TYRANNUS (vs 9 -10).**

1. This continued for two years on a daily basis.
2. Scholars generally agree that Paul supported himself by making tents in the morning and then he would start teaching at 11:00am and continue until 4:00pm. These were the hours of the day, the Hall wasn't being used by Tyrannus himself.
3. F.F. Bruce says this, "But Paul after spending the early hours of the day at his tent making, devoted the hours of burden and heat to his more important and more exhausting business, and must have infected his hearers with his own energy and zeal, so that they were willing to sacrifice their siesta for the sake of listening to Paul."

**INSIGHT #3: BE CAREFUL OF FALSE  
TEACHERS (Acts 19:11-20)**

**A. Please notice the wording of verse 11.**

God did the miracles through Paul and word spread because of the spectacular nature of what was happening.

**B. Then we learn the lesson of the seven  
sons of Sceva.**

- In this commentary on Acts Richard Longenecker writes this "When they tried to use this more powerful name in their exorcisms, Sceva's sons found they were dealing with realities far beyond their ability to cope. The demon they were trying to exorcise turned violently on them and they fled from the house naked and bleeding. The name of Jesus like an unfamiliar weapon misused, exploded in their hands; and they were taught a lesson about the danger of using the name of Jesus in their dabbling in the supernatural."

**LIFE GROUP DISCUSSIONS**

1. Just take a few moments and discuss the City of Ephesus. When Paul and his co-workers arrived with the gospel, what do you think about their approach in light of the type of city that Ephesus was?
2. Ephesus was a multicultural city with religious and sexual images throughout that you could see as you walked the streets. What are the similarities and differences to the city we live in as we think of sharing the gospel today?
3. Apollos was a biblical brilliant man. But obviously he was a still teachable because we are told that Priscilla and Aquila take him to their home and explain to him the way of God more adequately (Acts 18:26). How can we retain a teachable heart as we age both physically and spiritually?
4. We all have a role to play as Priscilla and Aquila so wonderfully displayed in this passage. What role can you play on earth?

- My oldest son, Noah is 37 and his role at his church is teaching grade 1 and 2 boys. He says that on Sunday mornings or Thursdays when they have them mid-week Kids-Klubs he bounces out of bed because he was born for this very reason - to teach these boys about Jesus. He can't wait for work to be done so he can get to his time with his boys. He knows why he is here on earth!

- The Apostle Paul put it like this in Philippians 1:21 - "For me to live is Christ." He spent or invested his life in sharing Christ with others. We all have a reason for being here - after we have met Jesus. He gives us the joy of serving Him. *Discuss for a few minutes that joy and if you have found it, share what it is for you.*

**REFLECT ON THIS:**

I closed the message with a quote from Mark Batterson " We each take about 23,000 breaths everyday, which means we owe God, 23,000 thank-you-s. By the way some Hebrew Scholars believe that the name of God, Yahweh - YHWH without the vowels is the sound of breath. That's a beautiful thought isn't it? On one hand, this name is too sacred to pronounce, on the other hand, it's whispered with every breath we take. It's our first word, our last word, and every word in between."

**Breathe!**  
Be blessed my friends!