

ASSIGNMENT FOR CLASS #11: (End of 2nd Missionary Journey & 3rd Missionary Journey – Acts 18:1-20:38)

Session #1: Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:1-17)

- Really try to imagine what Paul's daily life looked like in Corinth. What details are we given for this?
- Paul has several direct revelations from Jesus – the Lord particularly blesses his ministry in Corinth. Is it a surprise, then, that 1st and 2nd Corinthians are among some of the most important documents of the New Testament? Bear in mind, however, that it is 1st and 2nd Thessalonians that are almost surely written while Paul is in Corinth.
- Note the conflict between Jewish Law and Civil Law...

Session #2: Paul in Antioch & the Ministry of Apollos (Acts 18:18-28)

- Notice that Paul shaves his head “because he had made a vow” (Acts 18:18). Read Numbers 6:5. The completion of a vow sometimes meant the shaving of the head as an outward sign of humility.
- Note that Paul stays in some places for quite awhile (Corinth) but not as long in others (see 18:20-21). Why? What is his basis for discernment? How do you make such decisions?
- What strikes you about the teaching of Apollos? Where was it both strong and weak? What do we learn from this section?

Session #3: Paul in Ephesus & the Sons of Sceva (Acts 19:1-20)

- There are apparently two different “kinds” of baptisms. Please note what scripture says of them.
- The reception of the Holy Spirit comes with signs. Have you ever felt that you have manifested certain signs that were spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit? What are they?
- Please note WHERE Paul is preaching in Ephesus. It seems that sometimes there is a difference between being in one place versus being in another when it comes to preaching the gospel. (See Matthew 10:14-15).
- Read 19:11-12 and then think about the Catholic use of relics. Interesting!
- What do you make of the failed exorcism of the sons of Sceva? Why do you think their exorcism ended badly for them? How does the exorcism relate to the conversions that happened there?

Session #4: The Riot in Ephesus (Acts 19:21-41)

- Why were the silversmiths angry with Paul?
- Note that the Temple to Artemis had just been built during this time. It was made all of marble and considered one of the wonders of the world. It was the largest pagan temple on the planet at that time, and Paul does not hesitate to want to preach near the very steps of it!

Session #5: Paul in Macedonia, Greece & Troas (Acts 20:1-12)

- Note the shift again to “us” in 20:5. Probably means that Luke, who had stayed behind in Phillippi (16:12), rejoins Paul and they go to Troas together.
- Who was Eutychus? There seem to be some dangers in preaching too long....
- What does Paul do in 20:11 that we Catholics should make a special note of?

Session #6: Paul Speaks to the Ephesian Elders (Acts 20:17-38)

- What about this speech touches you the most? Let's talk about it! There are many important teaches there.
- Please make note of Paul making his own example the centerpiece of his sermon. What do you think about this? Does it sound arrogant to you?