

Living Waters Chapel
~ SERMON NOTES ~
Pastor Richard L. Weitzel
Sunday, August 18, 2019

SERMON SERIES: *“The Early Church”*

SERMON TITLE: *“God’s Squad: 4 Examples We Should Follow”*

SCRIPTURE: Acts 18-28 (NIV)

TOPIC: Four people who were examples of Christ-like character.

INTRODUCTION: We have all been impacted by the example of others in our lives—be that positively or negatively. Whether by parents or other family members, teachers, coaches, pastors, camp counselors, supervisors, peers, subordinates, authors, sports figures or celebrities—the impact of others and what they believe and do can make an indelible impression upon us and what we believe and do.

In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul says, *“Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ.”*

I. THE EXAMPLE OF PAUL (vv. 18-23)

- Fulfilling commitments:
 - A. It appears that Paul made a Nazarite vow to God.
 - B. Paul approached his fellow Jews in Ephesus as was his practice.
 - C. Paul returned to Ephesus stipulating, “If it is God’s will.”
- Being accountable:
 - A. Reporting to the church leadership in Jerusalem.
 - B. Fulfilling his vow at the Temple
 - C. Reporting to the sending church in Antioch
- Encouraging others:
 - A. Paul strengthened all the disciples Galatia and Phrygia
 - B. Paul took the road through the interior arriving at Ephesus

II. THE EXAMPLES OF PRISCILLA AND AQUILLA (vv. 18-19,26)

- Team members—supporting others:
 - A. They invited Paul to join their business operation in Corinth.
 - B. They travel with Paul to Ephesus.
- Hospitable mentors
 - A. They invited Apollos into their home.
 - B. They privately instructed Apollos.
 - C. They probably signed the letter of endorsement to Corinth.

III. THE EXAMPLE OF APOLLOS (vv. 24-28)

- Balancing the intellectual and the spiritual.
 - A. Apollos was well educated with knowledge of the Scriptures.
 - B. Apollos was a passionate communicator of the gospel.
- Balancing knowledge while remaining teachable.
 - A. He taught all he had learned and experienced about Jesus.
 - B. He was open to further learning from others.
- Balancing his commitment to the Word with a burden to tell others
 - A. Apollos wanted to go to Achaia—the region of Corinth and Athens.
 - B. He was a great help to the recent converts to Christ.
 - C. He (like Paul) longed for his fellow Jews to know Jesus as the Messiah.

CONCLUSION: Whether we want to accept it or not, we are all examples that others are following. What kind of examples are we?

- Are you ‘following the example of Christ’ as Paul was committed to doing?
- In what areas of your life is God challenging you to be a better example?
- What practical steps are you willing to take to become a better example?
- Who in your life needs to know Jesus?