

BLESS EVERY HOME

Share

Acts 18:1-11

What would cause you the most fear in climbing Mt. Annapurna?

- Would it be the height of 26,545 feet?
- The sudden and frequent sudden avalanches.
- The fatality rate of 32%.
- All the above.

What is the motivation for someone to put all three of things aside and climb Mt. Annapurna?

- The thrill of overcoming our fear? (*conquer*)

We are in our 3rd Sunday in our Sermon Series, *Bless Every Home*.

- How many of you have registered and are now praying for neighbors?
- The next step, after praying for our neighbors, we challenged you last week to look for opportunities to “care” for them.
 - Building a relationship with them. (Invest & Invite)

Now after praying for your neighbors and caring for them we begin to look for open doors to share the Gospel with them.

- For many this morning, that will be your Annapurna, your greatest fear.
- *Martin Luther made this interesting observation in his Table Talk: "God and the devil take opposite tactics in regard to fear. The Lord first allows us to become afraid, that he might relieve our fears and comfort us. The devil, on the other hand, first makes us feel secure in our pride and sins, that we might later be overwhelmed with fear and despair."*

Trevin Wax:

- Some worry that witnessing to a stranger might seem distasteful and turn them away from the gospel.
- Others worry that witnessing to close friends or relatives might change something in the relationship. They do not want to risk the friendship or damage their family ties.
- Some people fear rejection.

- Others worry that they don't know enough about Christianity to give good answers.

Maybe this will bring you some comfort this morning in sharing the Gospel with our neighbors, even the great Apostle Paul, at one time, had a fear of sharing with others.

Acts 18: 1- 11

- Corinth was a city of 200,000 people and would not be the easiest city to plant a Church.
- The reputation for wickedness of the city of Corinth was well known all over the Roman Empire.
 - John MacArthur in his Commentary on 1st Corinthians – “*Even by pagan standards of it's own culture, Corinth became so morally corrupt that it's very name became synonymous with debauchery and moral depravity. To “corinthianize” came to represent gross immorality and drunken debauchery.*”
 - **I Corinthians 6:9-10**
- The Apostle Paul is sent there by God to plant a Church, and to top it off he goes by himself.

God had already planted devoted followers of His in the city of Corinth (Acts 18:1-5)

- Aquila and Priscilla
 - They were fellow tent-makers.
 - They would hold Church in their home.
 - Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla would work together in the tent business and then on the Sabbath Paul would go to the synagogue and witness boldly concerning Christ.

When God opens doors, the enemy tries to close them. (Acts 18:6-8)

- **I Corinthians 16:8-9**
- Such opposition is usually good proof that God is at work and that should encourage us.
- Charles Spurgeon – “*The devil never kicks a dead horse.*”
- Jewish opposition had caused Paul to leave Thessalonica and Berea.
- 2 Old Testament illustrations are here.
 - To shake out one's garments was an act of judgment – washing your hands – now he can go to the Gentiles.

- To have blood on your hands – you bear the responsibility for another’s death because you were not faithful to warn him/her.
- **Ezekiel 3** – The watchman on the wall.
- Francis Bacon – “*Prosperity is the blessing of the Old Testament, adversity is the blessing of the New.*”

God gives Paul some assurance in of all things a “night vision” (Acts 18:9-11)

- Do not be afraid any longer.
- But go on speaking and do not be silent.
- For I am with you, and no man will attack you in order to harm you.
- For I have many people in this city.

George MacLeod was a Scottish soldier and clergyman, wrote: "I simply argue that the cross be raised again at the center of the market place as well as on the steeple of the church. I am recovering the claim that Jesus was not crucified in cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on town garbage heap; on a cross roads so cosmopolitan that they had to write his title in Hebrew and Latin and Greek; at the kind of place where cynics talk smut, and thieves curse, and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died and that is what he died about. And that is where Christians should be and what Christians should be about."

If you were to ask Paul, what is your job, how do you think he would respond?

- Tent maker
- Former Pharisee
- *Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle (champion), set apart for the gospel of God. (Romans 1:1)*