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Sermon Outline

“God’s Faithfulness to His Discouraged Servant”  
*Acts 18:1-18a*

God’s faithfulness to his discouraged servant is clearly seen in:

1. His timely provision of Christian friends and fellowship (vv. 2-6)

* New and old friends in Christ
* Good news and sacrificial gift

1. His clear commands and encouraging promises (vv. 9-10)

* Commands to fight the fear and stay the course
* Promises of his presence, protection, and power!

1. His transformational power and providential protection (vv. 7-8, 12-18a)

* Ministry fruit in unexpected places (vv. 7-8)
* Providential protection through unexpected sources (vv. 12-18a)

“I was surprised; so much drunkenness, cursing and swearing (even from the mouths of little children) do I never remember to have seen and heard before in so small a compass of time. Surely this place is ripe for him who ‘came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”

— John Wesley, 1742, upon arrival in a northern English city

Biographer Iain Murray on Wesley being *encouraged* instead of *discouraged* by the opposition he faced: “[Wesley knew] ‘the gospel of grace does not need promising conditions to make its reception a certainty.’”