

# Episode 108

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*“But some members of the synagogue became obstinate; they refused to believe and publicly maligned the Way. So Paul took the believers with him, and for two years, taught daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.”*

- Acts 19.9

God seems to do the most remarkable things when situations seem impossible. Here are just a few things God did as a result of these two years of lockdown in Paul's life:

Firstly, the next verse says that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord because of this time of teaching in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. The Roman province of Asia was roughly the size of the nation of France. What if God were to do that through us, in spite of our lockdown?

Secondly, as more and more people heard the gospel, culture and industry got turned upside down. People were delivered from their past, abandoned idol worship and temple sacrifice to the point that silversmiths and craftsmen who made a living off the brokenness of society had to find new work. What they had known for centuries was torn apart as Paul faithfully unpacked scripture in the hall of Tyrannus. What if God did the same in our midst? Imagine centuries of racial discrimination, abuse, corruption, brokenness, and shame being torn down as people are set free across our nation? What could our future look like?

Thirdly, churches were planted in Thyatira, Laodicea, and Colossae as the gospel spread like wildfire. Could this season be the seedbed for more church plants out of 3Ci?

Fourthly, leaders we know so well, like Mark, who wrote one of the gospels, Timothy, who journeyed with Paul on most of his missionary trips, Titus and Silas, all key ministers in the early church, were all raised and released in these two years. Surely God can do this among his people today as his purposes come alive in our hearts once more?

Fifthly, more than half of our New Testament letters came as a direct result of those two years, as Paul corresponded with the churches and leaders who were commissioned during this time. What if generations to come are able to walk in the fruitfulness of what God does in our midst, in spite of lockdown, a global pandemic, and all the uncertainty we face.

Our heavenly Father has done it before. Oh Lord, would you do it again?

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