

Priscilla & Aquila's Lesson

Week of March 23 - 29, 2020

Introduction

Paul was a team player. He was always on the move and looking for 'a few good men and women'. And God provided them! When Paul arrived in Corinth, he found a city with many challenges. But he also found a pair of believers who were ready to help. Together they faced the challenges and needs of this cosmopolitan city.

Lesson Acts 18:1-19

18 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. **2** There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, **3** and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. **4** Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.

6 But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. **8** Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent. **10** For I am with you, and no one is going to

attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city.” **11** So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

12 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment. **13** “This man,” they charged, “is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law.”

14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to them, “If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you. **15** But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law—settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things.” **16** So he drove them off. **17** Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever.

18 Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken.

19 They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

Questions

1. Priscilla & Aquila were forced out of Rome, why do you think this happened?
2. What brought Priscilla, Aquila and Paul together? Do you find yourself drawn to others that share similar interests or beliefs with you?

3. Paul was a wealth of Christian knowledge. How long was Paul in Corinth with Priscilla & Aquila? What was the purpose of their time together?
4. There are not many examples of couples preaching or spreading God's word in the Bible. Do you think that couples sharing a ministry are stronger because of it?
5. Do your relationships help strengthen your faith?
6. After Paul was forced out of the synagogues, he, along with Priscilla & Aquila, started ministering out of homes. How do you think this shaped the church as we know it today?
7. The Christian home is invaluable for spreading the word of God. Is Christ found by others in your house?
8. In Acts 18:10, God says to Paul "For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city." Do you ever feel persecuted for your faith?

Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for the people long ago that showed me how by studying your word, and joining with others, I can strengthen not only my own faith but spread the word to others. Please help me make you the center of my home and continue ministering to others. Amen