

9-12-21 To Be Like Priscilla and Aquila

Acts 18:18-28.

When I read what God's Word says about different biblical characters, I can get intimidated. Sometimes a little disheartened.

I don't see myself building an ark, parting the red sea, surviving a lion's den, faithfully marching around Jericho's walls seven times. Or taking the high road when guys like King Saul whip javelins at me while at dinner. To be like Isaiah, Ezekiel, or Jerimiah, nope, I would probably give up on people.

I find familiarity, solace in the anger of Moses getting frustrated and smacking a rock. Or Peter before Pentecost, he couldn't get out of his own ways most of the time. Or one of my favorites, kind of dark but I totally smile when I read it. When 42 youths were making fun of Elisha as he was headed to Bethel. **2 Kings 2:23-24, Then he went up from there to Bethel; and as he was going up the road, some youths came from the city and mocked him, and said to him, "Go up, you baldhead! Go up, you baldhead!" 24 So he turned around and looked at them, and pronounced a curse on them in the name of the Lord. And two female bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the youths. 25 Then he went from there to Mount Carmel, and from there he returned to Samaria.**

Then there are biblical characters like Priscilla and Aquila that grab my attention, their example convicts me and holds me. They were two very important people to Paul and had a huge impact on his and other people's ministries. They had servants' hearts that I think we could all learn from.

Paul mentions them often:

Romans 16:3-5, Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house.

1 Corinthians 16:19, The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Priscilla greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

2 Timothy 4:19, Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

We read previously that Paul met them when he arrived alone in Corinth. **(Acts 18:2-3)**

Read Acts 18:18-23.

He ministered in Corinth for one and half years before leaving for Syria taking Priscilla & Aquila with him. When they arrive at Ephesus, Paul then leaves the couple there and went to Antioch.

In **verse 22 and 23** Paul's second and third missions trip ends and starts up. In the matter of two verses Dr. Luke covers over 500 miles and months of travel and ministry.

Read verses 24-28.

What can I learn from them?

- I. **They supported each other.**
 - The one thing clear about this couple is that they worked together.

- Whenever their names appear, they appear together. This speaks volumes to us, as it shows us that they did everything together and supported each other.
- You can see that they loved what they did (tent-making) and did it well. It's amazing to see what an amazing team they formed.
- They were a couple who knew how to make the most out of life.
- They complemented each other and benefited from each other's strengths.
- This is such an important point to us as married couples- to support and encourage each other in our daily lives.
- It doesn't matter whose name is mentioned first or second, they supported each other.
- As brothers and sisters in Christ we should be known for supporting each other.
- We are in some crazy and uncertain times, and we must be available to come alongside and comfort one another.
- The scripture says that we are to bear one another's burdens. **Gal. 6:2, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."**

1 Thessalonians 5:14-18, And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all. 15 See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Isaiah 35:3-4, Strengthen the weak hands, And make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you."

Hebrews 12:12, Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees,

Romans 15:1-2, We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

Romans 14:1, As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions.

II. They were willing to get involved.

- We see that as Paul entered Corinth, the first people he hooked up with was this couple, he stayed in their home and worked with them – making tents.
- We see that they were a couple who loved having people in their home.
- Scriptures we looked at earlier stated they even hosted a church in their home.
- And Paul constantly refers to this couple, thanking them for their kind hospitality and openness they have shown not only to him, but also the church.
- This was a gift they possessed, and they maximized on it, by having people in their homes.

- Through this amazing gift, the church grew in numbers and people like Paul & Apollos were blessed through their ministry.
- Aquila and Priscilla were willing to put themselves out to host others.
- We could all learn somethings from their hospitable nature. Willing to get involved for the cause of Christ.

III. They were ready to get involved.

- When they met Apollos, they took him his aside and taught him the scriptures.
- Over the one and half years they were with Paul, they absorbed everything he taught.
- Because they were well conversed in the word, they were able to help others like Apollos understand the word better.
- Apollos was eloquent, mighty in the scriptures, and fervent in the spirit, but he didn't have all the facts. He spoke boldly about half of the gospel.
- They devoted themselves to the understanding of the word.
- This couple was willing and able to use their gifts wherever possible for the expansion of the kingdom.
- They were not afraid to come alongside a brother and help them.
- Because they were willing and ready to get involved they made a huge difference in the lives of believers. Read **verses 27-28**.

Conclusion

Have you placed your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ? Will you today?

Aquila and Priscilla had servants' heart that was powered by the spiritual gift of helps. Again, they were willing to get involved.

There are many opportunities to get involved today. There are plenty of ministry opportunities here at Bethel, YG, Super book, nursery, SS, choir.... the list goes on.

There is the walking stick ministry which has an event coming up next weekend and needs volunteers. (Sharing the gospel)

There is the good news club in Remsen that needs volunteers. They will be meeting in the Remsen Depot on Wednesdays after school, reaching local kids with the gospel, and plugging them into local churches. Lynn Ballard has been faithfully doing this ministry for years and needs some help.

For the cause of Christ are you using the gift of helps? Supporting others? Being hospitable? Being ready to teach?

