

Life lessons from Aquila & Priscilla

Various Scriptures

"Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches." -Romans 16:3-4

What is your most inspiring quote about teamwork? When it comes to motivating sayings about teamwork there is plenty to choose from. One of my favorites is "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." In ministry the concept of team work is highlighted in the body of Christ, but there is also another concept illustrated in a man and woman becoming one in marriage. Since the two have become one, our example this week comes from a God fearing couple who endured together, worked together, and served together. Whether you are married or single be encouraged to learn from their ability to compliment each other for the glory of God. What can you do to compliment your brother's and sister's in Christ?

Did you know?

*This couple came from the city of _____ in the country of _____.

*Aquila's specialized trade was in _____ making.

*They met Paul in the city of _____ and helped serve in various churches. One of those churches was in the city of _____.

*Their full story is told in Acts 18; They are mentioned in Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19

Context Continued.....

At this time in the narrative story of the book of Acts, the Apostle Paul is nearing the end his second missionary journey. After going through the land of Bithynia and Pontus (Galatia), he traveled all throughout the southern region of Macedonia going from Philippi to Amphipolis, Apollonia, Thessalonica, Berea, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Caesarea, Jerusalem to give a report and finally returning to Antioch.

As it relates to this lesson, Aquila and Priscilla come on the scene while Paul is in Corinth. At that time, this city was the political and commercial center of Greece. However, it had a reputation for wickedness and immorality. Many people worshiped in the temple of Aphrodite who was known as the goddess of _____ and _____. Even worse, there were also male and female prostitutes working in this temple. It was in the midst of all of this, that Paul and those who were with him, started a church in Corinth and challenged them to stand firm in the holiness of God thus providing a great ministry opportunity.

As we consider the ministry God has given us in the midst of the evil in our world, nation, and city today, what are some things we can do together that would create an opportunity for the lost to hear, see, and receive the good news of Jesus Christ?

Aquila and Priscilla enduring together: Acts 18:1-2; Romans 16:3-4; 2 Timothy 4:19

Here we see the meeting of Aquila and Paul and the persecution of Aquila and Priscilla from Italy. Verse 2 tells us the Emperor Claudius expelled all _____ from Rome. Apparently there was a conflict between the Jews and Alexandrians as well as a rise in Christianity. So he addressed two things:

#1 He warned them not to _____ for more privileges.

#2 He warned them not to _____ in or admit any Jews who came down the river from Egypt or Syria.

Despite these warnings, the conflicts continued and as a result all Jews were ordered to leave Italy in AD 49. Aquila and Priscilla escape the imminent danger and find refuge in the city of Corinth.

Reflecting on Romans 16 and 2 Timothy 4 we see a powerful testimony of how they stayed with Paul throughout his ministry oftentimes putting their lives on the line.

As you look over your life, can you think of a time when you endured persecution for being a Christian? What advice would you give to someone who is going through a difficult time because of their faith in Jesus?

Aquila and Priscilla working together: Acts 18:3

Ironically, Aquila and Priscilla shared in the same trade of tent making also known as _____. Each Jewish boy learned a trade to earn and living and support his family. This particular trade consisted of cutting and sewing the woven cloth of rough _____ hair into tents.

Can you think of three other common trades practiced during the 1st century?

Tents were used for several reasons here are a few:

*A common D _____ place

*To house _____

*Those who _____

“Tent making” is also a term used to describe those who worked to support themselves and provide additional resources for ministry. Acts 20:33-35

As we consider our own occupations and trades, what are some things we can do to help and support one another in ministry?

Aquila and Priscilla serving together: Acts 18:24-26; 1 Corinthians 16:19

Lastly we are introduced to a Jew named Apollos who had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt. Luke tells us he was an eloquent speaker who knew the scriptures well.

What did he really know about the scriptures?

- *The way of the Lord
- *Taught others about Jesus
- *He had a _____ spirit
- *He taught with accuracy
- *He taught about John's baptism (Luke 3:1-18)

Remember, John's baptism was to _____ Israel for the Messiah's arrival.

Verse 26 says, after listening to him preaching in the synagogue, Aquila and Priscilla took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately.

Oftentimes when a teacher or preacher does not say something just right, we tend to gossip, _____, and judge. However, Aquila and Priscilla show us the proper way to encourage our brother and sister when they don't fully grasp the knowledge and will of God.

Notice what happens after they talked with Apollos. Acts 18:27-28

- *They encouraged him to continue preaching
- *They _____ their support for him in writing
- *He went on to be a blessing to others
- *He defended the whole truth about Jesus

Lastly, in 1 Corinthians 16:19 we see Aquila and Priscilla continuing in service with Paul. Although they are in Ephesus they continue to greet and encourage those in Corinth.

As a married couple, how does this dynamic encourage you to do ministry with your husband or wife?

As a single person, how does their example encourage you to make a collaborative effort in ministry?

As you reflect on this study, what is the greatest lesson that you are willing to share with someone else?

**“Teamwork: simply stated, it is less me and more we”
-Anonymous**