

POWER HOUR

2/23/2025

Lesson Text:
Acts 18:1-4, 18-21, 24-28

Background Scripture:
Acts 18:5-17

Devotional Reading:
Romans 16:3-5; 1 Corinthians 3:1-10

“PRISCILLA, AQUILA, AND APOLLOS”

NLT TRANSLATION

Golden Text: *Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was.*

Acts 18:3 NLT

Time: A.D. 50

Place: Corinth; Ephesus

Acts 18:1-4, NLT

1 Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome. 3 Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was. 4 Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike.

Acts 18:18-21 NLT

18 Paul stayed in Corinth for some time after that, then said good-bye to the brothers and sisters and went to nearby Cenchrea. There he shaved his head according to Jewish custom, marking the end of a vow. Then he set sail for Syria, taking Priscilla and Aquila with him. 19 They stopped first at the port of Ephesus, where Paul left the others behind. While he was there, he went to the synagogue to reason with the Jews. 20 They asked him to stay longer, but he declined. 21 As he left, however, he said, “I will come back later, God willing.” Then he set sail from Ephesus.

Acts 18:24-28 NLT

24 Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well, had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt. 25 He had been taught the way of the Lord, and he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit[h] and with accuracy. However, he knew only about John’s baptism. 26 When Priscilla and Aquila

heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately.

27 Apollos had been thinking about going to Achaia, and the brothers and sisters in Ephesus encouraged him to go. They wrote to the believers in Achaia, asking them to welcome him. When he arrived there, he proved to be of great benefit to those who, by God's grace, had believed. 28 He refuted the Jews with powerful arguments in public debate. Using the Scriptures, he explained to them that Jesus was the Messiah.

INTRODUCTION

Many Christians believe that there are only certain ways they can serve the Lord. If called to the mission field, pastoral ministry, or teaching Sunday school, they would readily respond. While these are needful ministries, there are many other ways we can serve God.

According to Romans 12, there are many members in the body of Christ, but not all members have the same function (vs. 4). While some may function as teachers and preachers, other ministries include encouraging others, leadership, contributing to the needs of God's people, or being merciful to the hurting. To limit our service only to highly visible ministries is to limit our avenues for serving the Lord.

1. God's call to a tentmaker ministry (Acts 18:1-4).

Some missionaries serve in countries where they are welcome only if they have a trade needed in the country. We call such missionaries tentmakers because this was the vocation practiced by the apostle Paul when he ministered in Corinth with Aquila and Priscilla, fellow tentmakers.

Missionaries who serve in Muslim countries generally are able to serve only as tentmakers openly and as missionaries covertly. Such ministry involves building close friendships with people in the vocational relationship. For example, a doctor builds relationships with other medical personnel and his or her patients. The gospel is presented on a personal level when opportunities arise and dangers are minimized.

2. God's call to short-term missions (Acts 18:18-21).

Paul never went on a solo missionary journey; he always had a team of fellow laborers with him. His example needs to be emulated when foreign missionary service (long-term or short-term) is considered.

Short-term missionary service opportunities are team missionary efforts. The mission organization is the large team. Fellow Christians who serve with you for a specified period form the small team.

Evangelistic short-term ministries may involve team members going door-to-door in a certain area to proclaim the gospel. Other short-term ministries are designed to enable long-term missionaries to have a rest break back home.

3. Mature believers mentor younger believers (Acts 18:24-26).

Aquila and Priscilla mentored Apollos, a spiritually immature Jewish convert to Christianity. Mature believers need to take those younger in the faith under their wings.

Spiritually mature men should mentor men who are new believers. Spiritually mature women should do the same for women who are new to the faith. As much as possible, the physical ages of the mentors and of those they mentor should also be considered.

After Aquila and Priscilla mentored Apollos, he was able to publicly defend Christianity using the Word of God. A mentor should teach the new believer how to defend his faith using the Bible and how to live as a Christian.

4. Churches to be missionary-sending churches (Acts 18:27-28).

When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the church at Ephesus gave letters of recommendation to him. He was able to reinforce Paul's work in Corinth (Acts 19:1), refuting the Jews by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

The Ephesian church was the sending church for Apollos as a missionary. It is wonderful when a church produces among its members someone they can send as a missionary.

A sending church has a special investment in its own missionary. The church can undertake a generous part of the missionary's financial support. In addition, members of the church should covenant to pray for the missionary so that at least one church member is praying for him or her every day.

POINTS TO PONDER

Life's difficulties are often God's open doors for greater ministry (Acts 18:1-2).

Vital Christian service does not preclude secular employment (vss. 3-4).

God's people must be willing to pull up stakes and follow wherever He leads (vss. 18-19).

Do not let the wishes of well-intentioned people keep you from following God's clear directions (vss. 20-21).

Christian growth and service require teamwork (vss. 24-26).

Worthwhile service helps the brethren reach out to the lost (vss. 27-28).

CONCLUSION

When Paul arrived at Corinth, he needed a home and a means of supporting himself. He was welcomed into the home of Aquila and Priscilla, tentmakers like him.

Later, when Paul moved on to Ephesus, Aquila and Priscilla accompanied him. When Paul departed for Jerusalem, he left Aquila and Priscilla behind in a strategic ministry.

Aquila and Priscilla's ministry was multiplied when they disciplined the gifted Apollos.

God always has a place of service for those who will serve Him faithfully. Aquila and Priscilla are good examples for us.

QUESTION(S)

1. Why were Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth?
2. What was Paul's occupation? How did he learn this trade?
3. What was Paul's purpose in going to the Jewish synagogue?
4. Why did Paul shave his head at Cenchrea?
5. Why did Paul want to go to Jerusalem?
6. Where was Apollos from? What was this city known for?
7. How is Apollos described?
8. What knowledge did Apollos have of the Lord?

What can we infer from this concerning the disciples of John the Baptist?

9. How did Aquila and Priscilla deal with Apollos's lack of understanding of Christian teaching
10. Where did Apollos go after he left Ephesus?

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Next week's lesson is ***"Beware of False Teachers"***

Lesson Text: **Jude 1:1-13**

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