

EQUIPPED THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP

ACTS 18:24-28

From the beginning, faith has never been a solo project. Our spiritual life was always meant to be shared, shaped, corrected, and strengthened within the people of God. In Acts 18, Luke introduces us to Apollos, a man who, on the surface, appears to be the kind of servant every congregation would want. He is sincere, but incomplete. Faithful, but unfinished. And so, God will move to grow Him through other servants. How did Priscilla and Aquila help Apollos grow?

I. Sincere Faith is Not the Same as Complete Formation

A. Who is Apollos?

1. Acts 18:24: *Now a Jew named Apollos, a native Alexandrian, an _____ man who was _____ in the use of the Scriptures, arrived in Ephesus.*

a) Religious, educated, and trained.

2. Acts 18:25: *He had been _____ in the way of the Lord, and being _____ in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately about Jesus, ...*

a) Knowledge, fervent in spirit, and courage: (v. 26a) bold in his public teaching.

b) 18:25c: *But he knew only _____.*

B. He is incomplete. A person can love God deeply and still need further formation.

1. Growth is not automatic. It is intentional, and often it is relational.

II. How Real Discipleship Actually Happens

A. Focus on Priscilla and Aquila:

1. Acts 18:26: *They _____ him.*

2. They _____.

3. They explained the way of God to him _____.
i.e., faithful instruction given in love.

B. Priscilla and Aquila are not apostles. They are ordinary disciples who take responsibility for a brother's spiritual growth.

III. Teachable Hearts Become Powerful Servants

A. What was the result of Priscilla and Aquila's work?

1. Acts 18:27: *When he wanted to cross over to Achaia, the brothers and sisters wrote to the disciples to welcome him. After he arrived, he was _____ to those who by grace had believed.*

2. Discipleship did not slow Apollos down. It strengthened him.

B. Growth is something we celebrate.

1. Acts 18:28: *For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating through the Scriptures that _____.*

2. Teachability multiplies usefulness in the kingdom of God.

C. Discipleship is: humility to listen, a willingness to grow, and readiness to be shaped.

IV. As We Close

A. Jesus chose relationship over distance and did not disciple from afar. (Matthew 4:19)

B. Jesus corrected privately before publicly. (Matthew 13:36; Mark 8:17-21)

C. Jesus welcomed teachable hearts - even when they were incomplete.

D. Jesus defined greatness as service, not status. (Mark 10:43)

E. Jesus called His followers to make disciples - not just converts. (Matthew 28:19)

F. Are you humble enough to be taught? Are you willing to invest in others? The

Questions

1. What does Apollos teach us about the difference between being sincere in faith and being fully formed as a disciple of Jesus?

2. Why was it important that Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos aside rather than correcting him publicly?

3. How did Apollos' willingness to be taught affect his usefulness in God's work?

4. What does this passage show us about the role everyday Christians play in discipling others?

5. What is one practical way you can either help someone grow in Christ or allow someone to help you grow this week?

Answers

Jesus is the Messiah
Eloquent
Took Him Aside
A Great Help
More Accurately
Competent
Instructed
Perfect
Heard
John's Baptism