

GOD'S CALLING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Lesson Twenty

IN ACTS: Aquila and Priscilla

Burden to Impart:

The Lord calls the couples and families who love Him (like Priscilla and Aquila) to provide a warm home, full of hospitality and love, for his servants, his saints, and his church.

Memory Verse: "Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life...and greet the church in their house" (Romans 16:3-5).

Facts to Teach:

1. As Paul continued on his second journey of ministry he came to a city in Greece named Corinth. Being in a new territory for the gospel, it seems that Paul was both without money and without a place to stay. Surely he prayed for the Lord to provide for his needs and to lead him. Paul met a Jewish couple named Aquila and Priscilla. They had just recently come from Italy, having to leave because of persecution of the Jews. Perhaps this gave them a sympathetic heart for Paul's needs. They allowed Paul to live with them. And because they and Paul were tentmakers by trade they worked together (Acts 18:1-4).
2. Paul stayed with them for a year and six months. They must have learned a lot about the Lord and His ways through Paul during that time. They felt greatly blessed to have the company of such a man of God as Paul with them. Paul also felt blessed that the Lord had given him so dear a couple to stay with, who received the Lord's word and backed him up in his labors in the gospel. During that time Paul preached and testified diligently at Corinth, and the Lord raised up a church there (Acts 18:8-11).
3. When the time came for Paul to move on in his gospel journey he did not leave Corinth alone; Aquila and Priscilla went together with him. The Lord had knit their hearts together in the fellowship unto the gospel. They wanted to accompany Paul and participate in the spread of the gospel. Paul brought them to the city of Ephesus and left them there while he went on his journey. In Ephesus God used them to gain a man for the Lord who became an apostle: Apollos. Apollos was already speaking about the Lord and the Scriptures to the Jews, but he only knew of the baptism of John. This couple gently took him aside and shared with him some of the treasures of God's Word they had learned from Paul. This beloved couple of tentmakers turned the powerful Apollos to the Lord's way so he could help build the churches (Acts 18:18-19, 24-28)!
4. From Paul's epistles we see that this couple served the Lord by opening up their warm home for the saints to meet in. When they lived in Ephesus not only Paul stayed with them, but the church met at their house (1 Cor. 16:19). When they moved to Rome, the church there also met in their house. They were known and loved by all the churches for they had even risked their lives for Paul so that he could carry out his ministry for the Lord (Rom. 16:3-5a).