

## Looking for Tent Makers – Mar. 2, 2022

**Intro: We learn about God/faith from each other. Not just pastors.**

- Much of our knowledge comes from being with people who teach us about God, spiritual truths, victory, etc.
  - **God often reveals Himself thru people.**
    - Joshua learned of God from Moses; Elisha learned from Elijah
    - Timothy, Titus, learned from Paul; Ethiopian Eunuch from Philip
      - How can I understand unless someone explains?
      - We learn from each other... sow seeds into lives of others.
- A great way to sow seeds is to open our hearts in our homes.

**Hospitality** – the friendly & generous reception/welcome of guests.  
To open your house to others . . . you invite others into your life.

Over & over the Bible tells us to show hospitality:

**Hebrews 13:2** - Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

**1 Peter 4:9** - Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.

**Romans 12:13** - Share w/ the saints who are in need. Practice hospitality.

**Leviticus 19:34** - “You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

**Titus 1:8 & 1 Tim. 3:2** – an elder/deacon “must be hospitable,” he “must enjoy having guests in his home.”

It's thru Hospitality that we meet Priscilla & Aquila.

- **1 – Priscilla & Aquila:**
  - **Paul meets them in Corinth** – share common craft: tent making
  - **Dynamic duo** – never mentioned alone. They're peanut butter & jelly.
  - What we know of them (thru 4 books): Meet in **Acts 18**.
    - Expelled from Rome by Emperor Claudius;
    - Jewish refugees, end up on Corinth.

- Paul stays w/ them & works w/them **1 ½ yr.**
  - They travel w/Paul to Ephesus (**Acts 18:19**)
  - They “risked their lives” for Paul - **Rom. 16:3**
  - **2 Tim. 4:19** – closing greeting
  - Paul says all the Gentile churches are thankful for them
  - 2x Paul mentions: a **church meets in their home** – **1 Cor. 16:19** & **Rom. 16:5**
- **2 – What we can learn from them:**
    - First, they open their home & learn from Paul.
      - Common ground brings them together – tent making.
      - P&A show hospitality – they welcome a weary traveler – Paul;
      - B/c of their hospitality, they learn more of God from Paul.
    - Then they pass it on to **Apollos**.
      - **Acts 18:24** - “a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.”
      - Opening our homes is something we all can do. We all have one.
        - This is personal & intimate; public places are distracting.
        - We can open up our hearts; share our struggles & victories.
      - Hospitality is sowing seeds... impacting others... pouring out love... sharing our experience... helping others become better.
        - **2 Tim.** – Paul writing to Timothy – “the things you have heard from me, share with others also.”
        - **What we learn about God, faith... is meant to be shared.**
    - Temporary ... refugees... but left a permanent mark
      - You don’t have to be settled to help others settle w/God.

- P&A traveled quite a bit... from Rome to Corinth, to Ephesus - back to Corinth, then Rome after Emperor Claudius dies.
  - But - growth of the church happened b/c of them. They planted seeds that grew...
    - And - **Apollos then traveled – Acts 18:28** “he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.”
  - Don’t need to have **Arrived**... have it all together to open up...
    - Open your home; let others feel welcomed, loved, accepted.
    - Share your story... share your JOURNEY
- **4 things about Hospitality: 1) love God, love each other**
  - P&A provide instruction, wisdom, & helped others grow
    - You don’t learn about sailing from reading a book.
    - Our life experiences teach us... mature us... connect us.
  - God uses people who know Him to bring others to Him
    - We **can’t reveal** things about God we **haven’t experienced**.
- **2) Hospitality opens the door to friends & relationships**
  - Jesus went to homes; gathered at table with tax collectors . . .
  - Jesus didn’t just preach... He connected w/people.
  - In intimate settings, be intimate w/others. (Mary)
- **3) Hospitality fulfills what Jesus asks of us – “I was hungry, u gave me something to eat... thirsty-drink; I was a stranger and you took me in”**
  - What we do for others, we do for God. 4 You God in 2022.
- **4) Hospitality - a tangible way to demonstrate the love of God.**
  - Our actions preach louder than our words
  - **hospitality makes our faith visible ... open home/set table**
  - **Table** isn’t just a place of food, but a place of encouragement... a place to come together... lift burdens... pray... cry...

Song / week – “Come to the Table” by Sidewalk Prophets

Stay positive. Test negative. Get Vaccinated. 4 U God in 22.