

Women of the New Testament – Lesson 9: Priscilla

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye on another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Did we learn our lesson? Study questions from Lesson 8 (The Samaritan Woman)

1. According to John 4:7, what does Jesus ask of the Samaritan Woman

Answer: A drink of water from the well.

2. According to John 4:10, what did Jesus claim to be able to provide to the woman?

Answer: Living Water.

3. According to John 4:11, how did the Samaritan woman respond?

Answer: She was skeptical.

4. According to John 20:26, what did Jesus disclose to the Samaritan woman?

Answer: He is the Christ.

5. Complete the following scripture:

John 8:13 I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

True / False

False Samaritans have no part in the promise to Abraham (GEN 26:3 – And unto thy seed)

False The Lord came to seek the righteous (LUKE 19:10 – to seek and to save that which was lost)

True There is joy in heaven when one sinner repents (LUKE 15:7 – Joy in heaven when one sinner repents)

True The woman testified of Jesus before others (JOHN 4:28-29 – Left and told the men)

EXTRA CREDIT – In your opinion, what are you a slave to, and why?

Lesson 9: Priscilla

‘Love is not just about finding a good partner but being a good partner’ – From website ilovemylsi.com

As we explore many sources of inspiration, we encounter sites which are not scripturally aligned, but have a golden nugget of insight to offer (even a broken clock is right twice a day)! This quote presents a reality many either take for granted, or do not consider at all, as many people are centered on ‘self.’

In the context of our worldly lives, we often look at others and evaluate if they are a good fit for us, especially when it comes to love. However, we rarely examine ourselves to determine if we are a good fit for others. In fact, today’s view of the term ‘partner’ has become so loose in both business and personal relationships that it is typically associated with legal obligation instead of foundational compatibility.

This quote rightly asserts that we should examine ourselves to assume part of the responsibility to improve our relationships, and this is also true in our relationship with God:

I Chronicles 22:19 Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God.

King David inspires his son Solomon to take the action to build the temple for God – to take action to align himself with the Lord (you cannot align God to you, as it would not be a good fit).

2 Timothy 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Paul urges Timothy to invest in his relationship with the Lord – Learning more about God and what is required to establish a relationship with the Lord.

In this lesson we examine the remarkable testimony of Priscilla as she is an example of a good relationship with both people and the Lord.

Who is Priscilla

Priscilla and her husband Aquila were Jewish in faith, living in Rome. It is assumed they, or their families moved after Israel was conquered by Rome in 63 BC. They were forced to leave Rome after a religious tumult in 41 AD when arguments arose with Christ (disputes of Jesus) where the Jews were no longer permitted to meet in the synagogues, and then forced by emperor Claudius to leave Rome. Priscilla and Aquila then moved to Corinth Greece.

Acts 18:1-2 – The Need to Move

(1) After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

(2) And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

Instead of denying their faith, Priscilla and Aquila chose to leave Rome for a place where they could worship God openly putting them in a place to meet Paul.

A Partner in Occupation

Acts 18:3 – Equally Yoked

(3) And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

Priscilla was not unskilled or idle as she and Aquila were both tentmakers (worked with leather and cloth). There is no distinction put between them as both were more than husband and wife, they were both skilled in a craft as partners, which was sufficient to sustain them (and more as we will see later).

In this period of history, it is not common to see married Jewish women referenced in this way as most are depicted as managing the home more than being in the workforce. The younger single women are frequently noted as performing manual labor, such as agricultural (for example, the story of Ruth):

Ruth 2:8 – The Average Workforce

(8) Go not to glean in another field, neither go from hence, but abide here fast by my maidens.

Boaz requests Ruth to stay near his 'maidens' – unmarried women typically performing manual labor.

This is truly a credit to Priscilla as an experienced artisan earning Paul's respect enough for him to claim to have worked with both as equals – partners in the professional context.

It was also in this time working together where Paul revealed the gospel of Jesus Christ to them and they became believers – spiritual partners as well.

Partners in Ministry

Romans 16:3-5

(3) Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

(4) Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

(5) Likewise greet the church that is in their house

Paul had a great admiration for Priscilla and Aquila, but he does something atypical in his reference – one of two references. Paul names Priscilla first (Luke does the same one of three in Acts). This is not an error, oversight, or translation issue, as Priscilla was a true partner on my levels, to include work in the ministry of reaching others with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In this epistle, Paul genuinely offers appreciation as he credited Priscilla (and Aquilla) with so much:

1. Saving Paul's Life

Acts 18:18-19 – Committed

(18) And Paul *after this* tarried *there* yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren and sailed thence into Syria and with him Priscilla and Aquila; having shorn *his* head in Cenchrea: for he had a vow.

(19) And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

Luke notes from the time of their acceptance of Jesus as Lord (Paul's third missionary journey), Priscilla and Aquila also travelled with Paul, facing themselves at risk in the difficult times and tending to Paul when there were injuries (most likely during the riot at Ephesus in **ACTS 19:23-41**).

2. Offering Their Home and Resources

1 Corinthians 16:19 – Love That Is More Than Words

(19) The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

The couple are credited with using their substance (fruit of their labors) to bring others to Christ in using their own home as a place to offer the gospel – an outreach and church to bring others to the truth.

3. Appreciation of the Gentile Churches

Acts 18:26

(26) And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto *them*, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

Luke notes the account where Priscilla and Aquila instruct Apollos (an effective witness for the Lord) in the details of Christ 'more perfectly' as they explained the difference between the baptism of John (repentance) and the Baptist of Christ (demonstration of faith), which would greatly aid in witnessing for Christ.

Priscilla was not a bystander, but a very active and knowledgeable participant in the ministry of bringing Christ to this world. Although a woman, she was extremely influential and recognized as a church leader in her ministry by both Paul and Luke. As a true partner to her husband, to Paul, to other believers, and to the Lord, Priscilla's testimony is a challenge to examine ourselves:

Mark 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

The Lord reveals through Priscilla that losing your 'worldly' life for the sake of the Lord is to align your spiritual life with the Lord (become a better partner):

Learning & growing in the word of God (**2 Tim 2:15**)

Helping other believers in their ministry (**Gal 6:2**)

Engaging in a ministry (**Matt 28:19**)

Engaging fellowship to keep the Lord in the center (**Matt 18:20**)

Seek opportunity to teach (**Matt 28:20**)

Seek opportunity to go (**Matt 28:19**)

Be willing to sacrifice your part in this world for the Lord (**Rom 12:1**)

The task is not easy – there is no other partner in the Bible quite like Priscilla, and certainly not another couple, who are equally yoked as partners, using their talents to glorify the Lord. But do not be discouraged, as the Lord only looks for your heart to be His (Matt 6:21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also).

Next Lesson: Lydia

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Study Questions

1. According to Acts 18:1-2, where does Paul meet Priscilla?

2. According to Acts 18:2, why is Priscilla in that city?

3. According to Acts 18:2, who is Priscilla's husband?

4. According to Romans 16:3-4, how does Paul describe Priscilla and Aquila?

5. Complete the following scripture:

Galatians 6:2 Bear ye one another's _____, and so fulfill the law of _____.

True / False

Reference

T F Believers should study the word of God

T F Priscilla was a farm worker

T F Priscilla and Aquila travelled with Paul

T F Apollos corrected Priscilla and Aquila

EXTRA CREDIT – In your opinion, are you a good partner, and why or why not?
