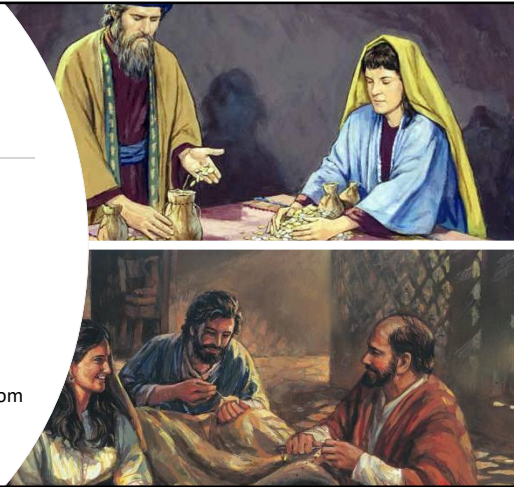


Famous Couples
Lesson 5
December 8, 2022

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3

Ananias &
Sapphira



4

The growth of the early church in Acts:

- Acts 1:15 120 gathered before Pentecost
- Acts 2:41 3000 added to the church
- Acts 2:47 adding to their number daily
- Acts 4:4 5000 men

5

Numbers 20:12

"...the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because **you have not believed Me, to treat Me as holy** in the sight of the sons of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land which I have given them.'"

(see also Ezek 22:26)

6

Lessons from Ananias & Sapphira:

1. God holds wives & husbands both accountable.
2. Question #6: What should wives do?
 - a. Pray/commit the situation to the Lord.
 - b. Appeal to your husband or make alternate suggestions
 - c. Do the right thing as you have opportunity
 - d. It may be necessary to separate .
3. Things we learn about God:
 - a. You can't deceive God.
 - b. You can't out give God.
 - c. God will protect His own holiness.
 - d. We must come to God on His terms.

7

Aquila & Priscilla



8

Acts 18:1 "After these things..."

Acts 17:16 Paul's "...spirit was being **provoked** within him as he was observing **the city full of idols.**"

Acts 17:18 "...Some were saying, 'What would this **idle babbler** wish to say?...He seems to be a **proclaimer of strange deities....**'"

Acts 17:19-21 "...**'we want to know** what these things mean'the Athenians....used to spend their time in nothing other than telling or **hearing something new.**"

9

Acts 17:22-31 Paul's message to them:

- Started from where they were: "unknown god"
- Started at creation = accountability to a Creator.
- Taught of the coming judgment of the world by a Man Whom God raised from the dead.
- Result: v.32 = rejection! "**when they heard of the resurrection....**some began to sneer...."

10

Acts 18:1 "After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth."



11

Acts 18:1 Paul comes to Corinth; feeling defeated? Discouraged?

Clues:

Acts 18:9 the Lord says to Paul, "***Do not be afraid*** any longer...."

I Cor 2:1-3 Paul came to Corinth "in ***weakness***, and in ***fear*** and in ***much trembling***"

12

Acts 18:9-10 the Lord Himself encouraged him:

- Go on speaking.
- I am with you.
- I have many people in this city.
 - Believers were waiting for Paul's teaching.
 - Unbelievers were going to believe because of Paul's teaching.

13

Acts 18:2 Aquila & Priscilla expelled from Rome: Emperor Claudius claimed the Jews were causing riots because of those who followed "Chrestus."

49 AD: Claudius expelled *all Jews* from Rome (not just the followers of Christ).

50 AD: Priscilla and Aquila meet Paul in Corinth.

→ *God used adversity in their lives to get them where HE wanted them to serve.*

14

Acts 18:19 "They came to Ephesus, and he left them there."



15

Acts 18:24-26 Aquila & Priscilla's ministry to Apollos:

- They observed his gift of teaching.
- They recognized his incomplete understanding; like an OT believer.
- Their approach: they took him aside privately; "explained to him the way of God more accurately."
- Notable for what they didn't do.

16

Acts 18:24-26 Aquila & Priscilla's ministry to Apollos:

- Notable for what they didn't do:
 - No public shaming or debate
 - Didn't flaunt their "superior insight" (blogs, Facebook posts, etc)
 - Didn't start a campaign to undermine his ministry
- *Because of their intervention, the gospel was spread through Apollos' ministry.*

17

Acts 18:28

"...he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, ***demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.***"
(the Messiah)

18

The rest of the story...

- I Cor 16:8, 19 Paul wrote I Corinthians from Ephesus.
- I Tim 1:3; II Tim 4:19 Timothy was the pastor of the church in Ephesus.
- Rom 16:3-5 Later they returned to Rome and had a church in their home there, too.

19

Lessons from Priscilla and Aquila:

1. Women can have an effective ministry, especially alongside of a believing husband.
2. Hospitality is an important and valuable area of service for the Lord.
3. There is a right way to correct: Matt. 18:15.
4. The value of proper correction = increase in effective ministry.

20

Reminders:

- ❖ Famous Couples Lessons 3 & 4 are available for your own study only; these will not be discussed in your groups in January.
- ❖ Complete the first lesson in Romans for our first meeting on January 12.
- ❖ Invite a friend to our Spring study of Romans!
- ❖ See you on January 12 at 9:25!

21

Merry Christmas!



22