



Iron Sharpens Iron

By Shannon Ford on March 16, 2022

TODAY'S READING: Acts 18

In Acts 18, we are introduced to Aquila, Priscilla and Apollos. Although Aquila and Priscilla had been expelled from Rome, they still served Paul by giving him a place to stay in Corinth. This allowed Paul to share the gospel in the synagogue every Sabbath. Because he was of the same trade, Paul stayed and worked with them for a year and a half as a tentmaker (vv. 3-4).

After some time, Paul leaves Corinth for Ephesus with Aquila and Priscilla. Paul then travels to various places to strengthen his disciples leaving Aquila and Priscilla. Back in Ephesus, Apollos comes on the scene. Look at some of the qualities scripture lists about Apollos. He was eloquent, mighty in Scriptures, instructed in the way of the Lord, fervent in spirit, and limited in his knowledge of the full gospel. Apollos was only knowledgeable about John's Baptism but did not understand the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Look at how Aquila and Priscilla respond to Apollos. Luke writes in Acts 18:26, "But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."

I think there are two great applications in this passage. When one of our brothers or sisters is on the wrong track and the Holy Spirit prompts us to speak to them, we must not hesitate to do so. We often hesitate because we do not like confrontations, or we do not want to jeopardize our friendship. If we are led by the Spirit, Proverbs 27:6 tells us "Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy." It is a picture of us taking care of one another. The other application is being a good listener. If we are on the receiving end of the conversation and receiving correction, we should not argue but instead listen and change our behavior. Whether we confront or need to listen, we are iron sharpening iron in the Body of Christ.

PRAYER: Lord, when I am out of bounds in words or actions and confronted by another brother, help me respond to the constructive criticism and suggestions in a way that would enhance my ministry and honor You. In Jesus' name, amen.

TOMORROW'S READING: 1 Thessalonians 1

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