

ORDINARY PEOPLE

ACTS 18:1-11

Sunday Morning, May 26, 2024 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Ordinary People

Message Text: Acts 18:1-11

Introduction:

Jesus did not call the wise, wealthy, educated or the popular to be ones who would carry on His mission after He ascended to heaven. He called ordinary people like fishermen, tax collectors, persecutors and doctors. Too often, we think that the Great Commission will only be accomplished by those with obvious callings, capabilities and resources. However, this is not the case in the advance of the Gospel through the early New Testament church. God chose ordinary people to carry His extraordinary work in the world. Let's consider the ordinary lives of Aquila and Priscilla and the incredible help they were to the advance of the Gospel.

1. A Continuing _____ (18:1-2)

Acts 13:47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

A. A New _____ (1)

Acts 18:1 After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

NOTE — In New Testament times Corinth was a place of wealth and indulgence. Hence, "to live as a Corinthian" meant to live in luxury and immorality. —KJSB

HOW PAUL ARRIVED IN CORINTH (*See 1 Corinthians 2:1-5*)

DEFINITION—WEAKNESS: a physical lack of strength or vigor.

DEFINITION—FEAR: an emotion experienced in anticipation of some specific pain or danger; usually accompanied by a desire to flee or fight.

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B. New _____ (2)

PAUL WOULD NEED PROVISION — *food, shelter*

2 Corinthians 11:9 And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.

DEFINITION—WANTED: to be destitute; to be or become poor enough to need help from others.

Philippians 4:15–17 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

PAUL WOULD NEED PARTNERSHIP — He had been traveling without Timothy and Silas.

QUOTE: Depend on it. God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply. He is too wise a God to frustrate His purposes for lack of funds, and He can just as easily supply them ahead of time as afterwards, and He much prefers doing so. —Hudson Taylor

2. A Divine _____ (2-3)

A. With a _____ Couple (2)

Acts 18:2 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

DEFINITION—FOUND: to come upon, as if by accident

Psalms 18:30 As for God, his way is perfect: The word of the Lord is tried: He is a buckler to all those that trust in him.

AQUILA AND PRISCILLA: Jewish residents of Rome. Aquila was from the Northeastern region of Asia, Pontus. (*Acts 2:9-people from Pontus were present at Pentecost*)

AN ANTI-SEMITIC EDICT: Claudius' expulsion of Jews from Rome occurred in AD 49, about two years before Paul arrived in Corinth. — FSB

B. With Devoted _____ (3)

Acts 18:3 And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.

COMPANIONS IN CRAFT

TENTMAKER — All Jewish boys were expected to learn a trade, no matter what profession they might enter. “He who does not teach his son to work, teaches him to steal!” said the rabbis; so Saul of Tarsus learned to make leather tents and to support himself in his ministry. —Wiersbe

COMPANIONS IN CHRIST

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:

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

NOTE — Aquila and Priscilla used their occupation to serve the Lord and be a part of the team.

YOU Can Be a Companion in the Work of the Gospel!

What has God has already put in your hand?

What is your occupation?

What is your gift?

What are your connections?

What is you passion?

3. A Blessed Increase (4-11; 24-28)

A. The _____ Increased (4-11)

Acts 18:4-11 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. 5 And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ. 6 And when they opposed themselves, and blasphemed, he shook his raiment, and said unto them, Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles. 7 And he departed thence, and entered into a certain man's house, named Justus, one that worshipped God, whose house joined hard to the synagogue. 8 And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized. 9 Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace: 10 For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city. 11 And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

DEFINITION—REASONED: to broach; to discourse; to consider or examine a topic in speech with others.

DEFINITION—TESTIFIED: to bear witness; to solemnly assert something, offering firsthand authentication of the fact

NOTE — Increase happened as everyone did their part. Consider the participation of Aquila and Priscilla, Silas and Timothy and the Church at Philippi.

B. The _____ Increased (19; 24-28)

NOTE — Paul , Aquila and Priscilla sailed to Ephesus (First leg of his journey to Syria)

Acts 18:19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.

THEY DISCIPLED APOLLOS.
(*Acts 18:24-26*)

THEY SUPPORTED APOLLOS' WORK IN CORINTH.
(*Acts 18:27-28*)

THEY OPENED THEIR HOME TO THE CHURCH IN EPHEBUS.
(*1 Corinthians 16:19*)

THEY ENGAGED IN THE WORK OF THE CHURCH WITH TIMOTHY.
(*2 Timothy 4:19*)

THEY HELPED PAUL AND RISKED THEIR LIVES CHRIST.
(*Romans 16:3-4*)

Conclusion

QUOTE — The success of any ministry is a band of men whose hearts God has touched. —Dr. Chrerian, *missionary in India*

QUOTE — We do not need to find our place in this world. We do need to find God's mission and our place in it. —Ken Fielder



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