

The Beautiful Couple

Acts 18:1-4

Life Group Discussion – May 20th, 2018

There are two communities that were made directly from the Lord. The first is the family, the second is the church.

These two places are where we see Satan trying to destroy the most because of the blessing put on them by God.

Truthfully, the family is where Satan places his priority. His first work was to separate Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden and to destroy the trust they had with one another.

God did not make Adam and Eve at the same time but created Adam first and, through his rib bone, created Eve. This is why Adam tells Eve that she is the “bone of his bone” and “the flesh of his flesh”.

A man and a husband are very different. A man is just a man, but a husband is someone who has the responsibility of his wife. The husband must take care of his wife more than himself, in fact he should love his wife as if she came from his bones and were made from his flesh.

God also made the woman to be a partner that helps her husband. Her partnership makes him complete. A husband and wife are able to physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually help each other become complete. If one is fast, the other can be slow; if one is introverted, the other can be extroverted. The beauty of a husband and wife is that they can cover each other's weaknesses to be a complete couple.

In today's passage, we are introduced to one of the most beautiful couples in all of the Bible, Priscilla and Aquila. What kind of couple were they to be considered a beautiful couple?

1. They were a couple that was always together

In the Bible they are recorded 6 times. And within these 6 times, their names are always written together. In the good times and in the difficult times, they were always together.

After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them (Acts 18:1-2)

According to historical books, Aquila was originally a Jewish slave. But in Rome he became a free man, rose in social rankings and married a high-class woman named Priscilla. After their marriage Aquila's skills as a tentmaker combined with Priscilla's wealth and connections helped make their business very successful.

But something unfortunate happened. The Emperor Claudius believed that the Jews living in Rome would rise together and cause a rebellion so he laid out a decree banishing all Jews from Rome. The decree stated that only the Jewish men were to be banished but the Jewish women and children were allowed to stay if they wanted. But Priscilla chose to leave with her husband and they moved to Corinth. Priscilla left her wealth and connections to move away to a foreign land with her husband.

They meet Paul on their journey and leave from Corinth to Ephesus with him. After Claudius' death, they go back to Rome and wait for Paul there. Their journey shows that in all things, good or bad, they were always together.

What's a beautiful couple?

A couple like Priscilla and Aquila that are always together and are participating in the work of God together.

Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Corinthians 7:5)

When does Satan attack couples the most? When the couple is separated and not together.

It was when Adam and Eve were separated that the snake came to tempt them.

A beautiful couple is one that rejoices in the good times together but will also endure the bad times together.

2. They were a couple that encouraged one another

The Bible mentions Aquila and Priscilla 6 times, however, when it's about family Aquila is mentioned first and when it's about ministry, Priscilla is mentioned first.

This was possibly because the husband was the leader in the family but the wife was the leader in ministry. The main point is that both understood each other's strengths and weaknesses and made sacrifices in order to lift the other up.

Marriage should never be one where the husband is a type of master and the wife is a type of slave. There must be love and service, sacrifice and humility when a married couple live life together.

When couples fight, we can see how winning can cause hurt and pain.

Couples will fight, that is a given. When two sinful people meet and marry, there is no easy way for them to become one. But our model must always be Jesus Christ. He died for our sins and forgave us in everything, even when we did not deserve it. This is our example in how we must treat our husbands and wives. Priscilla and Aquila encouraged one another, supported one another, and made sure to serve one another so that their strengths could be best used for the Kingdom of God.

3. They were a couple blessed by God

There is no record of when Priscilla and Aquila first accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. However scholars believe that they were believers even before they met Paul in Corinth.

They met Paul after Emperor Claudius chased them out of Rome. They spend a year and a half learning under Paul. It was through this training and education that they were truly blessed by God. This is why they left to follow Paul when he moved from Corinth to Ephesus. Because they were so blessed by God they were the first to go back to Rome and open their homes to start a church where Roman Christians could meet and worship together.

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. (Romans 16:3-5)

It was because of the blessing received by God through Paul that they were able to stay faithful and continue the work of Jesus Christ in Rome. Their work allowed for the flourishing of the gospel and their generosity allowed for churches to rise up out of their home.

Most people believe that a successful couple is one that stays physically healthy, becomes financially wealthy, and communicates well with one another. But what is truly a happy couple?

A truly happy couple is one that is spiritually one.

A couple that is spiritually one is a couple that can overcome even the worst of trials and can look at the future with assurance and peace.

My brothers and sisters, I hope that the couples of Shining Star are not simply satisfied with only attending Sunday services. We learned from Priscilla and Aquila to not only learn the Word of God, but to become faithful in serving others and loving one another.

I hope that we can all become a beautiful couple like Priscilla and Aquila in the Bible

SHARING-----

1. Priscilla and Aquila was a beautiful couple. Out of the three reasons why they were considered a beautiful couple, which is the one that you want more of as a couple or future couple? Please share.
2. In the family, what part of being a 'husband' or a 'wife' do you need to work harder in? Where can you improve to become a more beautiful couple under Jesus?