

# **AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE.**

## **Intergenerational Women's Ministry**

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher

25 March 2023

This month provides an overview of how her

**S**piritual Gifts

**P**ersonality (Presence/Perspective)

**E**xperiences (Positions/Protection)

**C**ares/Passions

**I**nterest

**A**bilities

**L**ife Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose; equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**

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*"Service is the rent we pay for being. It is the very purpose of life, and not something you do in your spare time."*

*Marian Wright Edelman*

TheFamousPeople.com

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**All Women of the Bible by Herbert Lockyer – Priscilla, The Woman Who Was Foremost In Service**  
**Pages 121-125; Acts 18:2, 18, 26; Romans 16:3; I Corinthians 16:19; 2 Timothy 4:19**

## **AWARENESS**

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*Paul said, "Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them."*

Romans 16:3 (NIV)

### **Name Meaning**

- Priscilla is feminine version of Prisca meaning worthy or vulnerable.
- One writers says it means "ancient, old-fashioned simplicity".
- Both her and her husband's names are Roman.
- There is some speculation she belonged to a distinguished Roman family.
- She was born in Pontus, expelled Jews from Rome and in Corinth met and became friends with Paul.
- Priscilla is always paired with her husband. Their two hearts beat as one, they are never mentioned apart.
- Often you will see Priscilla's name first which could mean she had more energy of the two, a stronger character, was a longer believer, had intellectual ability or a nobler birth.

### **They Were One In Marital Bliss**

- We do not know where and when they met but the writer says there was romance, love and blending of personalities.
- Since there is no mention of children it is believed Priscilla was childless.
- They are always named together and were not unequally yoked.
- Like Zacharias and Elisabeth they, too, were "both righteous".

### **They Were One In the Lord**

- They were partners in faithful endeavors, not only to present Christ by lip, but also in the excellency of their walk and conversation. The supreme need of our critical time is not more preachers, but for more lay workers like Aquila and Priscilla.

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- When they became the Lord's Scripture does not say. The inference is that when Paul met them they were already firmly established in the Christian faith.
- Both Priscilla and Aquila as Hebrews were drenched in Old Testament Scriptures and had found in the promised Messiah, their Savior and Lord, and were thus able to enter into Paul's remarkable ministry during his stay in Corinth where he honored them as their guest.

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### **They Were One In Secular Occupation**

- Luke informs us that they were tentmakers (Acts 18:3) like Paul and shared their workshop with him.
- As Jews they were taught the tent trade when they were young for the teachings of rabbis was that the father who failed to teach his son a trade educated him to be a thief.
- Jesus had a trade; He was a carpenter's son.
- The craft they had may have been a common one, but it was approached with an uncommon spirit. Do we turn our particular craft/gift to good account for the Lord?

### **They Were One In Their Fellowship For Paul**

- In the references you must be impressed with the affection they had for Paul and of the way he held them in high esteem.
- Their oneness in spiritual things made Priscilla and Aquila so precious to the heart of Paul he designated them "my fellow workers in Christ Jesus" (Romans 16:3).
- They shared Paul's itinerant (what does this mean?) ministry and went to Ephesus and to Rome assisting their friend in every way.
- When Paul left Corinth after a residence of a year and a half in the home of Priscilla and Aquila, they left with him for Ephesus.
- In the furtherance of the Gospel Paul tells us that Priscilla and Aquila laid down their own necks for his sake for which he and others had heartfelt gratitude.
- He never forgot the self-sacrifice of Priscilla and Aquila who exhibited a martyr-like sacrifice and thereby emulated the example of the Master whom they so faithfully served.

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- It has been noted that the 8<sup>th</sup> of July is the day set apart for them in the martyrology of the Roman Church when it is said the faithful couple were let out beyond the walls and beheaded.

### **They Were One In Their Profound Knowledge of Scripture**

- Apollos, an Alexandrian Jew was preaching only John the Baptist and knew nothing of salvation.
- He learned from Priscilla and Aquila, and he went on to preach with great vigor. He was corrected in a way that encouraged and strengthened him for effective ministry.
- If we cannot be great, by God's grace we may be the means of making others great.

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### **They Were One in the Service of the Church**

- To the Corinthians Paul wrote, "Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church in their house." In those days of poverty and persecution private, sanctified homes became the house of God.
- Priscilla and Aquila remind us that in the history of Christianity the truly great characters have always been simple and humble women and men.

## **BLESSINGS OVERFLOW!!!**

**April 22, 2023**

**Syro-Phoenician Woman, The Woman Who Begged As A Dog**

Pages 224-226; Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

**No May Session**

**June 24, 2023**

**Rebekah, Rebecca, The Woman Whose Favoritism Brought Sorrow**

Pages 134-140; Genesis 22:23; 24; 25:20-28; 26:6-35; 27; 28:5; 29:12; 35:8; 49:31; Romans 9:6-16

**July- August Summer Break**

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## **SKILL**

**Step Twenty-Five: Building Successful Relationships**

### **LESSONS FROM PRISCILLA IN THE BIBLE<sup>1</sup>**

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#### **EVERY DISAPPOINTMENT IS GOD'S APPOINTMENT**

- When Priscilla and Aquila were driven out of Rome, where they probably had a successful tent making business, because they of being Jewish. They went to Corinth right at the time when Paul was there. This began a friendship that lasted a lifetime.
- Priscilla, Aquila and Paul spent 18 months in Corinth together. Priscilla and Aquila found something that was priceless.
- They became close friends with Paul, helping him to bear the burden of ministry. And they themselves became missionaries.
- No doubt they must have been disappointed by having to close their business and give up their home in Rome. But God uses the disappointments of our lives for His glory. Romans 8:28 became a reality in the lives of Priscilla and Aquila.

#### **EVERY RELATIONSHIP CAN SUCCEED BY MAKING DEEP INTIMACY**

- The greater the intimacy (connection), the more success you will experience in your life. The greater the intimacy, the more fulfilled you will be. True or False? Define intimacy.
- Priscilla and Aquila are known as one of the power couples of the Bible. They were true life partners who seemed to be friends and enjoyed each other's company so much that they were a traveling pair, always on a missionary trip and never went anywhere without each other.
- Priscilla and Aquila didn't just love each other. They liked each other so much so that in Scripture where one is mentioned so is the other.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted/modified from <https://thefaithspace.com/priscilla-in-the-bible/>

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### **EVERY HOME SHOULD BE A PLACE OF WORSHIP**

- One of the outstanding practices of Priscilla and Aquila was the fact that they had a church home. Wherever they lived, Christians met in their home for worship.
- Their house had an open door. Believers who shared faith with them could enter and enjoy Christian fellowship and worship.
- Today, even with safety concerns, can you create, have you created an atmosphere that the enemy will not be able to tolerate? When you host worship and praise in your home, do you invite true believers so the devil will not be able to set up camp?

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### **EVERY JOB/WORK YOU DO SHOULD CONNECT TO WHAT GOD HAS CALLED YOU TO DO**

- Priscilla was considered a laywoman who stepped up to the plate with her husband to help brilliant, well-traveled Paul. She taught the gospel to people and had a church in her home. She had a budding, thriving ministry.
- You might not be able to preach sermons or run a church service but that's not the only form of ministry (what does ministry mean?). What is your ministry? How can you be a layperson and help (or helping) your pastor, trustees, stewards to disciple the saints, to evangelize?
- Your ministry may even be under the disguise of a for or not for profit business/job. God has no problem if your ministry is your business/job and your business/job is your ministry.

### **EVERY COMMUNITY YOU ARE IN SHOULD BE WITH LIKE MINDED PEOPLE**

- It's not always easy to find but God can provide godly friends who are similar to you in heart and purpose (where do values come in?).
- Paul found in Priscilla and Aquila compatibility in purpose and a true, life-long friendship. They all were tent makers and they all had a passion and purpose for sharing the gospel.
- Because their hearts were beating the same, they worked together effortlessly and had each other's back, even risking safety. What they were able to accomplish in fulfilling the purpose God had called them to do as a unit was magnificent.

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- You should have in mind what kind of relationships you need, what you are really looking for. Start praying for God to orchestrate the pieces of your life so you can find your community of like-minded and like-hearted people.

### **EVERY YOUNGER PERSON SHOULD BE LOOKED AT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MENTOR AND/OR NURTURE**

- When Priscilla saw and heard Apollos, she realized that he was passionate and brilliant and a gifted speaker who was going in a direction that could have become problematic in the future.
- Priscilla didn't criticize him. Instead, she saw an opportunity to pour into him. Apollos was already energetic and passionate. He just needed some more information and a slightly different direction. Apollos went on to become a prolific preacher.
- Who is Apollos in your life? Who is that young woman? Who is that young man? Who is that person who could use your knowledge and advice and nurturing to set them on the path that God has ordained for them to take?
- You have a responsibility to help people like Apollos. Don't go away rich with wisdom while your Apollos is hungering for it.

### **EVERY LEGACY SHOULD BE ONE OTHERS CAN FOLLOW**

- One of the most powerful legacies you can leave is a well-lived life that others can emulate.
- Priscilla and Aquila left a legacy of unwavering and fruitful trust in God; a wholesome and productive marriage; and a powerful and impactful ministry.
- As you live your life, ask yourself this question: If the Bible were to be rewritten with your story in it, what would you like to be known for?

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### **KNOWLEDGE**

Dear (insert your name) \_\_\_\_\_;

Today I engaged in a conversation on a woman who was always mentioned with her husband but that did not take away from appreciating her faith, her marriage, her ministry and her business. I know God can use me and my relationship with my spouse, partner, best friend as an Ambassador of Christ. I must be aware of tools Satan will use to keep me from fully serving Him in mind, spirit and heart. Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most,

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Blessings Overflow,

**1-800-799-SAFE (7233)**

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