

Disciples Need Instruction, Too

Acts 18

Lesson 28 in a Series about the 1st Century Church

Do you know anyone who knows it all? Now, I know there are many who *think* they know it all, but who here today can claim that?

In our continuing journey through Acts, we come upon a chapter that emphasizes the need for instruction. In fact, our primary example of a disciple needing instruction is the preacher! Now that's humbling!

We begin the text with an introduction to Aquila and Priscilla. They are disciples working with Paul on his journeys in Greece. The opposition to Paul's teaching is nothing new. The response of many who become believers is encouraging. In any case, believer or unbeliever, people are confronted with TRUTH and make a decision to accept or reject. There are examples of both in our lesson today.

Rejected by Jews

Acts 18

1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, 3 and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. 4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. 6 But when the Jews opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am clear of my responsibility. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

The rejection by the Jews was not going to halt the preaching of the Gospel. Going to the synagogue may have made the teaching about God easier, but it did not help with the teaching about His Son!

7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God. 8 Crispus, the synagogue ruler, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

The development of faith in key Jewish individuals would have made it possible to keep the door open to the Jewish community. In this passage, Titius Justus was probably a proselyte like Cornelius. He was a worshiper of God, yet he was a Greek. Never give up!

Aquila & Priscilla Instruct

24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

The need for preacher instruction! Although Apollos was sincere and knowledgeable, he needed further instruction. He was preaching to people about the Lord but falling short in directing them to be baptized into the name of Jesus. This becomes even clearer in the first part of chapter 19.

The instruction was done in private. We have had lessons presented in Escanaba with this text as an example. Recognizing the need to be direct in providing instruction does not mean we have to be insensitive to the one being instructed. I'm sure we've all seen examples of correction conducted in a less than favorable manner. Let's follow the example and grow in our interpersonal skills as we work with each other.

Apollos Instructs

27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. On arriving, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed. 28 For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

I hope you notice that further instruction regarding baptism was graciously received by Apollos, and the work continued to be productive. He was able to instruct many within the church. Notice that the Scripture says, **"...he was a great help to those who by grace had believed."** How important it is that we continue to be productive for the Lord. Look forward to your next opportunity to receive correction and/or instruction from a brother or sister in Christ! You will be able to practice the example we've been given through His Word today!

I really believe this passage is a...

Call to Our Own Instruction

2 Timothy 3:12-17

12...everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, 13 while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. 14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, 15 and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Continued faithfulness and God's Word enable us to be thoroughly equipped. As we enter this week, may the Lord direct us to instruct when needed, receive correction as needed and seek wisdom through His Word for our salvation through faith.