

Priscilla and Aquila: Practicing Hospitality
Acts 18; Romans 16:3-5
May 25, 2022

Introduction: *Hospitality was a gift even in the Apostle Paul's era and he was recipient. What does your "hospitality" atmosphere surroundings look like? Are they inviting, comforting, warm? What says "I welcome you" into my space? A room arranged for conversation? An Inviting sign on your door? A freshly brewed cup of coffee or a cool drink of water. A relaxed smile and a listening ear? Whatever it is make the preparations. Carve out time and emotional space for hospitality and see what use God makes of your efforts.*

1. In which different ways did Priscilla and Aquila show hospitality?
2. Focus on Acts 18. Why would Paul be a challenging houseguest?
3. What local controversies do you think Paul discussed with Priscilla and Aquila around the kitchen table at night (Acts 18:1-17)?
4. What evidence do you see that, in spite of the hostile atmosphere, God was using Paul in Corinth (Acts 18:8-17)?
5. How do you think Priscilla and Aquila's hospitality contributed to Paul's ability to do God's work in Corinth?
6. What do you think Priscilla and Aquila gained from Paul?
7. What further examples of hospitality do you see among the early Christians in this text (Acts 18:18-28)?
8. Why do you think Priscilla and Aquila traveled with Paul as far as Ephesus then stay there?
9. What reasons did Apollos have to be grateful to Priscilla and Aquila?
10. Look again at Romans 16:3-5. What would be difficult about having a church meet in your home? What would be rewarding?

Reflect and Pray:

- When have you grown spiritually or emotionally because of the presence of a guest in your home?
- What are some practical ways you can use your own home (or room or computer) your personal space to accomplish God's work?

Prayer: *Dear God, thank you for the hospitality I have received, and I thank you for the opportunities to extend welcoming care to someone else. Amen.*



Acts 18 (NKJV) Ministering at Corinth

18 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. ² And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. ³ So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. ⁴ And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks.

⁵ When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled ^[a]by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews *that Jesus is the Christ*. ⁶ But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook *his* garments and said to them, “Your blood *be* upon your *own* heads; I *am* clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.” ⁷ And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain *man* named ^[b]Justus, *one* who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸ Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

⁹ Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; ¹⁰ for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city.” ¹¹ And he continued *there* a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

¹² When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the ^[c]judgment seat, ¹³ saying, “This *fellow* persuades men to worship God contrary to the law.”

¹⁴ And when Paul was about to open *his* mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, “If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. ¹⁵ But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look *to it* yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such *matters*.” ¹⁶ And he drove them from the judgment seat. ¹⁷ Then ^[d]all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat *him* before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things.

Paul Returns to Antioch

¹⁸ So Paul still remained ^[e]a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila *were* with him. He had *his* hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. ¹⁹ And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰ When they asked *him* to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, ²¹ but took leave of them, saying, “I ^[f]must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing.” And he sailed from Ephesus.

²² And when he had landed at Caesarea, and ^[g]gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. ²³ After he had spent some time *there*, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia ^[h]in order, strengthening all the disciples.

Ministry of Apollos

²⁴ Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man *and* mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵ This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶ So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷ And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸ for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Romans 16:3-5 - Greeting Roman Saints

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. ⁵ Likewise *greet* the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.