

Acts of Jesus 41 Apollos notes

We left Paul last time needing a receiving encouragement—He leaves Corinth after 1½ years, at the same time ending what is called his second missionary journey.

--Paul sails along with his friends, Aquila and Priscilla, to Ephesus and spends a short amount of time there.

--Leaving Aquila and Priscilla behind, he sails on east to visit Jerusalem and ultimately Antioch from which he will start his 3rd missionary journey.

--Here, between his 2nd and 3rd missionary journeys, we come to a parenthesis in Acts in which Luke introduces us to a man named Apollos.

--He was destined to play a significant role in developing churches especially in Corinth.

We are introduced to him first as an unsaved man.

Acts 18:24

--**V. 24** – First of all, his credentials -- He was from **Alexandria** which was known for its educational prowess.

--He was, no doubt, and educated man with the equivalent of a graduate degree or even doctorate.

--Adding to his credentials—he was an eloquent man (gifted communicator)

--He was “mighty in the Scriptures” (which ones?)

--“Instructed in the way of Lord.”

--“fervent in spirit”

--“speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus”

Why do I call him unsaved? Because the Scriptures indicate that.

--How can person be all that and be unsaved? – Because the Scriptures say that he wasn’t.

Watch carefully what the Scriptures say about him:

1. They call him a Jew and not a Christian or brother.

--Paul is also a Jew along with Priscilla and Aquila, but Luke is pretty consistent about calling a believer a believer.

--This is our first indicator, and it doesn’t stand alone but the next one does.

2. **V. 25c** – **“being acquainted only with the baptism of John”**

--That’s like reading the resume’ of potential pastor having all these credentials, but when you ask him the question to share with you his salvation experience he says, “I’m not sure if I know what you’re talking about”

--The baptism of John was only a baptism of repentance making a Jew ready to receive the Messiah.

--John the Baptist had all kinds of followers, but they were handed off to Jesus when appeared on the scene. Andrew, Peter, James and John, Philip and Nathanael were all disciples of John first.

--They repented under John and then believed on the Savior.

--A Jew knowing only the baptism of John had not yet received the Savior. **Acts 20:21** = two steps: repentance and faith.

--They could tell you about the Savior from the Old Testament, but they had never actually met the Savior.

So is it possible to be Mighty in the Scriptures, Instructed in the way of the Lord, fervent in spirit, even speaking and teaching accurately about Jesus and still be unsaved?

--**Is it possible for you to be a church member and faithful, and knowing about Jesus, knowledgeable of Biblical things, even teaching things that are accurate and you still not be saved??**

--**None of those things save you --- You must meet the Savior personally.**

Some of you perhaps do not know the story of John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement. John was raised in the home of a minister, Samuel Wesley and his godly wife Susanna. He attended Charterhouse and Oxford and became a double professor of Greek and logic at Lincoln College of Oxford. He was subsequently ordained into clergy of the Church of England. While he was at Oxford he helped to form what was called "the holy club," a group so nicknamed by the other students because they seriously attempted to cultivate their spiritual lives. Finally, he accepted an invitation from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to become a missionary to the American Indians in Georgia, where he failed miserably. Forced to return to England he wrote, "**I went to America to convert the Indians; but, oh, who shall convert me?**" Not all was lost, because in his earlier travels he had crossed paths with a group of Moravians whose living faith deeply impressed him. So upon his return to London he sought out one of the leaders and to use Wesley's words was 'clearly convinced of unbelief, of the want of that faith whereby alone we are saved.' On the evening of May 25, 1738 Wesley went to a meeting at which Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans was being read. He said while it was being described the change which God works in a heart through faith in Christ that felt his "heart strangely warmed." He went on to say "**I felt I did trust in Christ and Christ alone, for my salvation.....**"

V. 26 – He had a blank missing which despite his sincerity and accuracy would keep him out of Heaven.

--Could that be you?

--Every single person must have a personal encounter with the living Jesus in which you believe on Him as Savior or else you will not see Heaven (no matter who you or what your credentials are).

1. I am going to spend the rest of our time focusing on another Point that rises up out of this passage.

--**V. 26** – tells us a lot about both Apollos and Priscilla and Aquila.

--First, it tells us the kind of person Apollos was: high credentials, intelligent, yet able to sit down and listen to a couple of tentmakers.

--Smart enough to know that he had something to learn and that none have complete knowledge.

--Second it tells us about these two tentmakers: the fact that they didn't call him down in public and that they didn't chastise him tells that these two truly had a heart for people.

This brings up the subject of encouragement again.

--We looked last time at being encouraged in the Lord and not giving up.

--We need to not only look to the Lord for encouragement, but be encouragers ourselves.

--Priscilla and Aquila's gentleness and encouragement of this lost man was the springboard that turned him into one of the greats of the New Testament days.

Have you ever had a car whose battery died and someone came along with jumper cables and "jumped you off" so that you could get going again?

--That is just the idea of the Greek word encouragement = "to put courage in"

Heb. 10:24 – We need to think on how we can spark each other to press on.

2. Three ways you can be a spark for people

1. Be committed to church: **Heb. 10:24-25**

- Got to be around each other for encouragement to happen.
- Got to be involved in each other's lives to know how to encourage.
- Goes both ways because a real good way to get and stay discouraged is to drop out.

2. Look for their potential: This couple saw potential in this man and gave him tremendous help.

- Look for giftedness or any good and point it out to them.
- Sometimes we can't see our own abilities and we especially can't when we are discouraged.

3. Be gentle with people's short comings.

- This couple did not blast Apollos for his messed-up theology
- Remember how gentle God has been with you (even allowed you to be wrong for a while) but still blessed you and encouraged you.
- People don't have it all together -- encourage what they do have together.
- Doctrine is important but love is more important.
- One of the most frustrating things is knowing how you should be acting and yet not acting that way It would be encouraging to hear, **"hey, I've been there; listen to what I did"**
- People need to know that to struggle is normal.

4. Speak prophetically to one another.

--**I Cor. 14:31**

- We over spiritualize prophecy like it is only special people at special occasions that are able to clarify what God is saying through His word.
- While that is part of what it can be, Prophecy can be nothing more than an impression from God concerning someone's situation.
- A Scripture that might fit; a word of encouragement that helps them gain perspective.

VV. 27-28 – Watch what happens when a changed and encouraged Apollos gets a fresh start!