

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 39: Apollos

We left Paul last time needing and receiving encouragement - He leaves Corinth after 1½ years ending what is called his second missionary journey.

Antioch from which he will start his 3rd missionary journey.

- 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 person.
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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, an educated man with the equivalent of a graduate or even a doctorate degree.
 - Adding to his credentials - he was an eloquent man (a gifted communicator).
 - He was "mighty in the Scriptures"
 - "Instructed in the way of Lord"
 - "fervent in spirit"
 - "speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus"
 - Why did I call him unsaved? Because the Scriptures indicate that.
 - How can person be all that and still not be save? – Because the Scriptures say that he wasn't.
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Watch carefully what the Scriptures say about Apollos:

1. They call him a Jew and not a Christian or a brother.
 - 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"
 - The baptism of John was only a baptism of repentance making a Jew ready to receive the Messiah.
 - A Jew knowing only the baptism of John had not yet received the Savior.
 - They could tell you about the Savior from the O.T., but they had never met the Savior personally.
- **It is 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 still not be saved yourself. None of those things save you --- **You must meet the Savior personally.**
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V. 26 – Apollos had a blank missing which despite his sincerity and accuracy, would keep him out of Heaven.

- 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 rises up out of this passage.**

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- **V. 26** – this 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.
 - 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.
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This brings up the subject of encouragement again.

- We looked last week 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, period.
- That is just the idea of the word encouragement --- Greek = **"to put courage in"**

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

2. **I will give you 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.
 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.
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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.
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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.
 - 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 – Look what happens when a changed, encouraged, and saved Apollos gets a fresh start!
