

RCMI L-Path Teaching
October 9, 2022

TITLE: FAMILY MATTERS

TEXT: Romans 16: 3-5; Acts 18: 1-3, 18-19

B.I.: God intended the Christian families to love and serve Him together.

INTRO:

FAMILY MATTERS. Why do families matter to God?

“In your seed, all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”- Acts 3:25

- Families matter to society and individuals, but they also matter to God. A central theme of the Bible is how God moved to bless all the families of the earth through a man called Abraham.
- Acts 3.26 says that God sent Jesus “to bless you in turning away every one of you from your iniquities.”
- This is the key message of the Bible – that God has acted to bring blessing to all who will repent and trust the Lord Jesus.
- Acts 16.31, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved- you and your household.”
- Aquila and Priscilla are a Spirit-filled couple with a godly marriage that resulted in a powerful ministry to the Lord. I believe God intended the Christian life to be a family affair. The Bible teaches that it’s ideal for entire families to love and serve God together.

BODY:

“³Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. ⁴They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. ⁵Greet also the church that meets at their house.” - **Romans 16:3-5a**

- Aquila and Priscilla are one of the most significant families recorded in the Word of God. The couple is mentioned six times in 4 books of the Bible. They are mentioned by Paul himself each time, indicating that they were special to his life and ministry.
- I want to show the attributes that make them stand out as a family of distinction. They’re the family that matters to God because:

I. THEY WERE A SAVED FAMILY. [Acts 18:1-3]

A. A Family of Distinction - These three verses give insight into who these people were. We are told in verse two that Aquila was a Jew born in Pontus who had migrated to Rome at some time. So he is a Jewish man.

- On the other hand, Priscilla takes a Latin name, indicating that she is probably Roman by birth and possibly a Gentile.
- A Roman family that was very socially prominent at this time had several female members named Priscilla.

B. A Family of Difficulties - Notice what the Bible says in **verse 2**.

- Claudius, the Roman Emperor, issued a command that all Jews were to be expelled from Rome. This edict forced Aquila and Priscilla to leave the city and find a new place to live. Indeed, this move placed great hardships upon this family.
- No family is without trouble and problems, but no family should be without Jesus Christ!

C. A Family of Destiny - What, on the surface, must have appeared as a tragedy was remarkably used by the Lord.

- When this couple was forced to leave Rome, they traveled east toward Corinth. There, they met a man from the east named Paul.
- When Paul shared with them, they were converted and came to know the Lord Jesus as their personal Savior. They have turned what had started as a tragedy in their lives into the greatest blessing they have ever experienced. Such is the providence of God!

II. THEY WERE A SERVING FAMILY.

When a family is serving the Lord as they should be, there will develop within that family a burden for the things of God.

A. In Service of God's Work - Rom. 16:3

- Paul calls them his “co-workers in Christ Jesus.” Paul isn't talking about tent-making here. He is talking about the work of the Lord. He says that they are his partners in the business of serving God. Notice that they even uprooted themselves again to travel with Paul for a time, Acts 18:18-19.
- Thank God for people like Aquila and Priscilla, who will not add to the burden of the man of God but will help him as he labors for the Lord!)

B. In Service for God's Word - As this couple ministered in Ephesus, they encountered a man named Apollos.

- The story of their encounter is found in **Acts 18:24-28**. Apollos had the boldness to preach, but his message was incomplete.
- As God would have it, his path crossed that of Aquila and Priscilla, and when they heard him speak, they realized that he had never listened to the whole truth. They invited him home for dinner and explained the word of God to him more perfectly.

- Aquila and Priscilla were willing to share what they had learned with others. Jesus never called us to be just recipients but channels of His love and word to bless others in this world.

C. In Service to be God's Witnesses - Paul tells us in **Romans 16:4** that this couple had put their necks on the line for Paul.

- This couple was a bold witness for the cause of Christ. No wonder God used this family so mightily!
- By the way, he wants to do the same with our families as well.

III. THEY WERE A SANCTIFIED FAMILY.

That means “set apart”...separated from the world.

Romans 16:5 speaks of the “*church that meets at their house.*” This great Christian family enjoyed being set apart to worship.)

A. Sanctified to Worship in Simplicity

- What we know about this couple is that they were faithful witnesses of the Gospel. They even opened their home for the believers to have a place to worship. Theirs is a house church.
- ***Worship is about God's people gathering to worship God in the fellowship of His Son Jesus through the power of the Spirit and the Word of God!***

B. Sanctified to Worship in Sincerity

- This phrase also makes it clear that even though they had a church in their house, they also had a church in their hearts.
- They would have prayed at home. They would have met with God at home. This proves that they were sincere about what they were doing.
- Your house should be as much a place of worship as is the church house. Is your house a place of personal worship? Remember John 4: 24, which says, “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

CHALLENGE:

“It often happens that when couples get their relationship to God straightened out, their relationships with one another begin to straighten out as well.” - *Wayne Mack*

- Their deep intimacy with God helps deepen their relationship with one another. I believe this family demonstrated the kind of family that matters to God. They showed a burden for the Lord's work and were extensively used by the Lord in those days.
- May our lives be like the lives of these two extraordinary believers. God can use lives for His glory to make a difference in His kingdom. Is your family that kind of family? Is your life that kind of life? May there be an increase in the church of couples like Aquila and Priscilla who have a godly marriage for ministry.

DISCUSSION:

- What are the attributes that make this family that matters to God? Share.
- How will you endeavor to make your families like that of Aquila and Priscilla?