

- Living Up In A Down World: We are “aliens and strangers” Living in a world that doesn’t fit! Upside Down!
- Getting our Priorities right: Moving from what “Is” to what “Should be”!!!
- Church: Worshipping; Gathering in a Group; Serving On A Ministry Team; Living on Mission
Used to be “Sharing Near and Far” Freaked everyone out. Walking around w/Gospel Gun
Doesn’t really express the reality of what we are trying to say. Talking about a LIFESTYLE!
Mt 28:19-20 “As you are going” Acts 1:8

Our MISSION is to share the grace of Jesus with those that don’t Know Him!

Getting up in the AM and saying, God...Today, wherever I go...Show me how you want to use me!

I’m not going to paint a bullseye on someone and shoot. I’m just going to meet them where they are help take one step

Two People in the NT that exemplify “LIVING ON MISSION” are Priscilla and Aquila, Companions of Paul!

Acts 18:1-11

Pg 786

1. God Works Through Us Both In The Best AND The Worst of Times!.

18:1-2

Working in the good times is easy...but we often overlook what God wants to do in the tough situations

Most of us think of sharing our faith as something that is scary....Doesn’t have to be that way!

If what you do is something that is unnatural, forced and targeted, it can be, But if it is just part of LIFESTYLE

That is what you see with Priscilla and Aquila:

- They were living in the “worst” of times: Were in Corinth because they had been thrown out of Rome!
~Around 50AD (15 years after Resurrection) There were “disturbances” among the Jews in Rome, re: Jesus!
~The Emperor Claudius got so sick and tired of hearing about the problems that he just said...LEAVE! 40-50K
~When that happened, P & A were caught up in the edict...and forced to leave. Not sure if they were Christian or not
~So, they turn up in Corinth about the same time (recently arrived vs 2) as the Apostle Paul
~Meet him and because they were both tentmakers...they begin to work together to make a living...and Paul preaches
KEY: For P & A, it was a terrible time...forcibly thrown out of Rome, running for their lives (600 miles!)
- Yet, what must have been an awful time for them was in fact the beginning of their life’s work...touched eternity!
For them when they running from Rome, were on the journey...when they arrived in new city, everything gone
God was laying the foundation for the very best and most important work in their life!
If they hadn’t been thrown out of Rome...not have met Paul in Corinth!
KEY: God often uses what WE think to be a terrible thing to bring about good in our lives!

Ro 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him who have been called according to his purpose.*

Ge 50:20 *You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many*

2. God Wants To Use Us In Our Workplace To Be A Testimony For Him.

18:3

We are not entirely clear WHEN P & A became Christians. The expulsion from Rome was ALL Jews, not just those were Believers. So, it is possible they were believers in Rome...and It is possible that when they met Paul he led them to Christ

- Witness @ Work:
Either way, here is what I want you to notice. P & A, as well as the Apostle Paul brought their faith into their workplace. Either they were Christians and met Paul, and acted on it, or Paul met them at work and taught them
I know when you hear me say that, some of you will think, “But you don’t understand...I can’t do that...trouble!”
Maybe so, but it isn’t much different than the times in which they lived. Already thrown out of one city because of faith!

I am not saying we should do that which is going to get us in trouble, but I do believe *we need to be witnesses at work!*

Most place will allow us to do that if we do it carefully, respectfully and within certain guidelines.

- Col 3:22 “...obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord.”

As we work through this series on “Living Up In A Down World” *I want to let you know NOW what comes next!* After Easter we will move to the next part of the series and spend some time talking about how we are Christians should work! One of the things I will be saying then is that God wants to do with US what He did with P & A at work, and with the Apostle Paul.

- *Consider:* *In keeping with that I have something I want to offer you for your consideration. As* I was doing research for this series I came across a new book that was designed with this in mind! It was written by a group in Texas for the specific purpose of being used as a group study at work...let by someone like YOU...with a group of both Christians and non-Christians together!
- *Challenge:* *Here is my challenge to you.* If you would consider leading a group like that at YOUR work place...before...after...at lunch, stop by and pick up a copy of the book for free, and read it over the next couple of weeks. Then, if you want to create one of those groups at work let me know and I will help you figure out how to do that, and walk with you during the process!
- *Connect:* I will be in the Connect Room after the service...come by and grab a copy of the book to read pray about

3. God Wants To Use Us In Our Home To Be A Witness For Him!

1 Cor 16:19

"...so does the church that meets at their house."

Priscilla and Aquila were constantly investing in others!

~They did that with the Apostle Paul

~They did that with Apollos, one of the most eloquent and gifted preachers in the early church

~They did that with the people of the Church...whom they allowed to meet in their home

Early Church OFTEN met in the homes of those that formed the Church

We see that everywhere in Cuba. In fact, I would bet that 90-95% of the Churches I visit in Cuba, homes!

You see them meeting in Garages, rooms attached to the house, living rooms, porches...rooftops!

It is common in almost every other area of the world to experience Church in those conditions.

I want to challenge you to consider how YOU can use your home as a platform for the Gospel!

- Small Group: Darlene's small group regularly meets in our home
- VBS: Backyard Bible Club
- Have a fellowship, football party, prayer meeting in your home, do a barbeque and invite people over
- Known MANY people over the years that always prepare Sunday Afternoon meal to be shared: WHOEVER A LOT of commentators believe that is what P & A did with Apollos: Lit: Took to themselves (to heart) Many believe they took him home and spent time instructing him. Unlikely there was a Sabbath School Class!

CONCL:

- Next time "bad" comes your way...Stop...Ask God: "What are YOU doing here...HOW DO YOU WANT TO US IT?"
- Prayerfully consider if God would have you lead a study in your workplace
Consider using the book I have, it's great...not a "bible study" as much as it is a spiritual story...asks great questions
- Ask God HOW He wants to use you at home.
What would it be like if there were 5 or 10 or 15 Backyard VBS meetings this summer...kids come THERE?

Living On Mission

It all about waking up in the morning and saying, "*Father, today I want to be USED by YOU! Will you work through me?*"

Whether it is in good times or bad...Teach me to say...Father, what do you want to do through this event?

- *God wants to do that in your Workplace*
- *God wants to do that in your Home*
- *God wants to do that "As you are going..."*

He is waiting for you to say...Here am I, Send me!!!!

Will you pray that today?