**Unstoppable - wk 32 – Meanwhile…**

**I love origin stories… Biographies, superheroes, etc.**

**Acts is Jesus: The Sequel. Luke Vol 2 – The “what now?”**

**Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

**25yrs since Jesus - rose from the Dead. Paul just finished his 2nd mission journey – was away for 3.5 years and goes back.**

**Luke does something important. He takes a break from talking about the adventures of Paul and talks about a power couple that lead a dynamic personality to Jesus Christ.**

**Paul with Aquila and Priscilla (Paul met them in Corinth – work friends who became ministry partners)**

**The briefly went to Ephesus on the way back home for Paul and asked A&P to stay back and encourage the church. (v19) most likely working their leather trade as the church grows.**

**Paul heads home - Acts 18:22 When he had landed at Caesarea, he went up and greeted the church, (Jerusalem) and then went down to Antioch.**

**(map) 23 After spending some time there, he departed and went from one place to the next through the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.**

**Paul checks in at Jerusalem and his home church (Antioch), then shortly leaves to Galatia area revisiting the churches. This begins his third mission trip.**

**Meanwhile… Back in Ephesus… an origin story.**

**(Map) Acts 18:24 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. (Don’t know where Apollos was coming from, but he ended up there.)**

**Alexandria - capital of Egypt in Northern Africa. known for its great libraries and schools - and outside of Jerusalem was the largest Jewish population in the Roman Empire. Apollos was smart, educated, knew a lot about God the OT.**

**Like Paul was both Jewish and a Roman citizen.**

**Ephesus has a new small Christian community. Paul was there briefly and left, A&P there to help this new community.**

**He (Apollos) was an eloquent (knowledgeable) man, competent (strong) in the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. (he knew about Jesus) And being fervent (hot) in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. (We will come back to that part – this was not just about baptism)**

**Apollos is a passionate speaker but did not know the full truth of Jesus. A believer in Jesus, but not a disciple of Jesus - a disciple of John. He knew a lot about Jesus but did not fully know Jesus.**

**John had disciples that did not follow Jesus – but thought Jesus was the Messiah. Perhaps this is how he found out.**

**26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, (Jewish gatherings) but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.**

**This implies that although Apollos was passionate about Jesus and knowledgeable about Jesus, he was missing key parts of the gospel. Which A&P gave him. (Acts 19 tell us more about this issue)**

**27 And when (Passage of time – growing and learning) he wished to cross to Achaia, (Map –Corinth location) the brothers (small group of Christians in Ephesus) encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. (They confirmed his calling and sent him out. Power of good referral, good reputation)**

**When he arrived, (In Corinth) he greatly helped those who through grace had believed, 28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.**

**Armed with the full gospel he heads out to preach again and now is referred to as preaching boldly with power.**

**Because of this, some scholars suggest Apollos possibly wrote the letter to the Hebrews. Unknown.**

**Apollos – An Origin Story**

**How a good speaker - became a great evangelist.**

* **He knew the scriptures – v24- eloquent & competent (the Law, prophets)**
* **He was educated – v25 - had been taught in the way of the Lord**

**As a Jewish man from Alexandria – he knew his stuff.**

* **He was passionate – about what he believed – v25 fervent in spirit**

**Not HS spirited – lit. spirit is boiling – he was lit! Passionate.**

* **He was a gifted communicator – v25 - spoke and taught accurately**

**What he knew he talked about – and was good at it.**

**This all sounds so much like the Apostle Paul before he was saved.**

**But he was missing the full gospel of Jesus.**

**Apollos had all these things going for him - But was misguided Teaching things that were off and incomplete.**

**Ever known someone who is passionate – but misguided?**

 **I think of talented teachers, authors, youtubers, actors, celebrities. Gifted but misguides passions. The test one is key.**

**Acts 18:26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, (this guy is off) they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.**

* **He was teachable - v26 took him aside and explained… more accurately**

**Humble teachable attitude. Vs. Passionate unteachable people (pride)**

**I think of someone like Jordan Peterson famous intellectual author is he teachable? Lifted up while they are still trying to figure out their theology. \*\* CS Lewis became Christ at 30**

**This is big. He realized; “I still need more of Jesus! God is not done w/ me, and I can receive correction from other people.”**

**What was it they talked to him about – most likely the resurrection.**

**Acts 18:25 “taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John.” / Acts 19:1-10 same issue when Paul hears about it.**

**\*John’s baptism was a washing to prepare for the arrival of the Messiah. Message of works - go cleanse yourself, he’s coming. John’s baptism points to preparing.**

**\*Jesus’ baptism was a baptism that declared the death, burial, and resurrection of the Christ who has come.**

**Jesus Baptism points to a present salvation and the infilling HS.**

**Apollos was preaching Jesus is the Messiah – but it appears he did not know the full scale of Jesus crucifixion and resurrection.**

 **You could say that A&P lead Apollos to true salvation.**

* **He put to action what he learned – v27-28 (2 Tim 3:16)**

**Now empowered by the HS – he spoke even more boldly and clearly.**

**This good speaker who became a great evangelist!**

**He took the correction – He was growing and using his gifts.**

**So often people hear something, agree to it, but never apply it.**

**Every Sunday pastors brings the word, we say Amen, and leave.**

**James 1:19 Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.**

**This is about listening and being teachable. Not being defensive. But not only hearing it… but doing it.**

**22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. 24 For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets, but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.**

**We are to leave Sundays, Bible studies, small groups, and quiet times - and we put it to work – put it to action.**

**Aquilla and Priscilla - The Power Couple (husband and wife)**

**When you think of me many of you can’t say my name w/out Nikol or vice versa. We are a team – we both talk, encourage, & disciple.**

**(Acts 18) Work partners of Paul who became ministry partners. Served the Corinth church for 1.5 yrs w/ Paul, now commissioned to Ephesus where they were sowing gospel seeds.**

**They went to the local Ephesus synagogue building relationships and possible teaching opportunities to share Jesus, when a passionate young man comes in on fire for God - but he’s missing the full gospel.**

**So, they take him aside and corrected him by sharing further truth. They were successful and his ministry began to flourish.**

**Their efforts to help Apollos changed the world. That is why it in there. Luke – “You know Apollos, but do you know this?”**

**Apollo is mentioned in other letters as a great disciple, teacher of Jesus, and servant and friend of Paul. His fruit is in part a result of A&P. Do you like Apollos? It’s because A&P took time to disciple him.**

**How they redirected Apollos life – They were**

* **They were working together - v26 (Matt 18)**

**Working together to complement each other’s strengths and giftings.**

**A marriage working together is a powerful example of this.**

**The power of two – we can do more together than alone.**

**(Matthew 10:1; Luke 6:12–13; Mark 6:7–13; Luke 9:1–2)**

* **They were steeped in God’s word – v26**

**They knew how to discern the truth – they knew the word of God so much that even good speakers can’t get past the “Berean test” (Acts 17)**

* **They were bold for the truth - v26**

**Not afraid to address the issues that matter. Confrontational when needed. This needs to be addressed.**

**\*\* Notice names change order (Priscilla 1st) Perhaps she took the lead. In reference to their ministry her name is always first.**

* **They were gentle in attitude.**

**Humble attitude. Took him aside - Private nature of the correction.**

**26 …Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. (NIV – Invited him to their house)**

**They did not ridicule, attack, or stand up shout your wrong!!**

**2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.**

**Galatians 6:1 Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted.**

**Ephesians 4:15 Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ,**

* **They were generous.**

**This was another example of how they served the kingdom.**

**With their time, knowledge, and resources.**

**Acts 18 – the Corinth church started in their house.**

**1 Cor 16:19 – says the Ephesus church met in their house.**

**Ro 16:3-5 – says they later hosted the Rome church in their house.**

**“All we have is yours God – to use for your glory. Our house is open and yours, our time is yours.” I think of our host home and life teams.**

* **Their focus was always about Jesus.**

**They did not have issues with his style, passion, or method – his message was off. You need to know Jesus better.**

**The gospel of Jesus is the center, focus, mission of our message and purpose.**

**Apollos took this to heart also – his message was Jesus Christ. V28 showing by the Scriptures that the Christ was Jesus.**

**Their attitude was that of Paul – I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Co 2:2)**

**This power couple helped turn a misguided teacher in a world changing Christ centered evangelist.**

**Two areas we all can grow in:**

1. **Are you willing to address and confront the tough stuff?**

**Perhaps you need to talk to someone.**

**Matthew 18:15-17 – tell you how.**

1. **Are you willing to be humble and teachable?**

**2 Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.**