
Vinci Barros

**PAUL, AQUILA AND PRISCILLA: LEAVING A LEGACY FOR YOUNGER
PRIESTS**

- Many people achieved significant things during that period; but here is an example that illustrates the idea of using the house itself to build the church.
- There are many other accounts in the Scriptures that are not entirely consistent with one another.
- The Bible is a story of love, relationships, fellowship and the life of God.
- In the Scriptures we find stories that serve as a perfect model in every respect; not all biblical stories conformed to the unity and commitments of Christianity, yet they did not fundamentally fail.

Some examples:

- Adam and Eve: Accused
- Abraham and Sarah: Fear
- Isaac and Rebecca: A Lie
- Samson and Delilah: They ruined their lives after making many mistakes
- The Scriptures reveal the failures in the lives of gods and saints, highlighting our imperfections and showing that the only way to be happy as a couple and as a family is to be fully blessed by God.
- God always begins his work in our home. The perfect example
- Let's look at the example of Aquila and Priscilla. The Bible records just one argument between them, but they surely had many!
- I won't tell you about the love scene involving their parrots, but I'm not sure I liked it very much. Sometimes Priscilla is mentioned first, as if to show that she was more outgoing than Aquila.
- Through this model, God will resolve the rivalry within the church. I simply wish to highlight the nature of rivalry in ministry.
- The church must learn to view rivalry as people imbued with the kingdom of God on earth.

Examining ourselves in the Scriptures

- Acts 18:1–2 – Paul, Aquila and Priscilla are neighbours.
- Acts 18:3 – The ideal couple is one that divides up daily tasks not for personal convenience, but for the advancement of God's kingdom.
- Acts 18:4 – Don't let work take over your lives... the focus is on Jesus! Go out and work!
- Philippians 1:21 – For me, to live is Christ.
- Acts 18:13 – The ideal couples are those who work together in the same office, but who leave room for others to join them.
- Above all, the ideal couple is hospitable. Pablo.

Aquila and Priscilla

- Acts 18:18 – Perfect in the mission of the Kingdom of God.
- Acts 18:24 – Those who were well versed in the Word.
- Acts 18:26 – Teachers of the Word.
- Acts 18:27 – Committed to the faith, sharing their men to help the church grow
- Acts 19:1 – Engaged in furthering God's purpose. They had a vision for the growth of the church.

Aquila and Priscilla and Paul

- Acts 28:23 and 30:31 – Paul had already set an example by renting a house.
- Matthew 4:13 – Jesus also lived in a house by the sea and later taught his disciples in his home.
- Romans 16:3 – Priscilla and Aquila, friends of Paul.
- Romans 16:4 – Risking their lives.
- Romans 16:5 – The church used to meet at her house.

This exemplary couple lives not for themselves, but for others – if possible, even laying down their lives for their brothers and sisters! We are called to build up their church.

We need:

- Word, prayer and action
- Witnessing and training
- Discipline – commitment – the life of God
- Multiplication – a sign of life

What's your house like?

- Does your house look like Aquila and Priscilla's?
- Is your house a lake or a spring?
- Let's turn things around.

Psalm 90:12 – *Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.*

What did God say to me?

- Live life to the full with God
- She is passionate about Him
- Touch people's hearts so that virtue may flourish
- Always love, wherever you are, whoever you are talking to, and win souls for the Lord.
- Share Jesus, who is our life

Each of us should strive to leave a legacy. Some leave behind research that has led to a vaccine, a discovery, a treatise, a collection or a contribution to humanity. But who leaves behind something to nourish the heart?

Wake the shepherds

- We have failed as 'spiritual parents' by not immediately involving many members of this new generation in the spiritual work.
- It is possible to invest in the next generation.
- There's still time for a bumper harvest.
- God wants us to understand the importance of spiritual fatherhood.

What is spiritual fatherhood?

- When one generation passes away, it leaves behind what it has for the next.
- It conveys a spiritual legacy that can be refined or multiplied.
- It is not a cold, static and flawed structure – a system – but a living organism.
- Our legacy is to share a humble and broken heart.

Challenges

- Lack of vision

- Lack of resources
- Spiritual investment
- Over-caution
- Miedo
- Lack of mutual support

The new generation of leaders begins with the new generation of sheep. It's a change of mindset.

- Paul entrusted the young Timothy with great responsibilities (2 Timothy 2:1–5).
- 2 Timothy 2:2 – Entrust the teaching to faithful and capable men, so that they, in turn, may entrust it to others.
- 1 Timothy 3:6 – He must not be a recent convert, lest he become conceited. Age does not define a recent convert.

The continuity of the work

- Young people bring up young people, sheep bring up sheep, shepherds bring up shepherds.
- Just as Paul did with Timothy, by sharing the burden and delegating authority. Leaders must have the vision and the drive to train new leaders, whilst keeping their sights set on the next generation.
- A generation that passes on the best it has to the next.

A view of the pass

- It must not be for personal gain; we are 'stepping stones' on this path, so that the younger generation may surpass us, reach greater heights, and glorify only the One who called us out of darkness into His marvellous light.

Practical examples

- Soldier (2 Timothy 2:3–4) – A soldier does not serve wherever he pleases; he is constantly given orders.
- Athlete (2 Timothy 2:5) – An athlete trains by repeating the same exercise dozens, even hundreds of times. They eat a varied diet.

- Pastors should adopt the same attitude, through fellowship with God, grounded in the Word, and through intercession.
- Leadership and football – Top athletes devote hours every day to training, which brings them medals and fans.

The right mindset

- Team spirit: Even the most skilful or fastest players can let the team down if they don't pass the ball. There's no point in trying to do everything on your own; you have to trust your teammates and pass the ball to the newest or least experienced player.
- Discipline: Experienced players have the ability to see the bigger picture. They move about in search of opportunities. They push beyond their own limits, driven by a need for motivation.

We need:

- Agreeing to sit on the bench
- Keep the objective in mind
- Celebrating a team-mate's goal: Rejoicing with those who rejoice
- Play by the rules
- Listen to the referee's whistle: The referee is our conscience, enlightened by the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 4:14–16

- I am not writing this to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For although you have thousands of guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers... I urge you to follow my example.
- This is the legacy I wish to leave behind: a heart filled with passion for the Lord's work and for carrying it out as God intends us to.

Vinci Barros