



A Ready Heart

Introduction: Apollos was a well educated man who had a gift to communicate. He had a desire to teach people the word of God. However, he had not been instructed in the full story of the kingdom of God. He had an incomplete message. A couple, Priscilla and Aquila, took him aside and instructed him in the knowledge of the reality Christ. Apollos was humble and teachable. He had a ready heart to hear from the Lord.

Text: Acts 18:24-28

Discussion:

1. Icebreaker: When have you tried to instruct someone and they did not want to listen? How well did it go? When have you instructed someone that did want to listen and learn? How well did that go? Write/Discuss your experience in both situations.
2. Note and read the times that Aquila and Priscilla are mentioned: Acts 18, Romans 16, 1 Cor. 16:19, 2 Tim. 4:19. How valuable were they to Paul, Apollos, and the overall kingdom of God? What can married couples learn from them about how to center their life and marriage around the gospel? If you are married—how do you and your spouse serve the Lord together? Is your home a place where gospel conversations happen?
3. How does Acts describe Apollos? How do we know that he used the Old Testament for his preaching? His teaching was not in error, it was simply incomplete. Apollos knew the promises of the Messiah up to the baptism of John. What was the message of John the baptist? What was the message of Jesus?
4. Aquila and Priscilla took him aside to teach the way of God more accurately. He received their instruction gladly. His heart was ready to hear more about the kingdom. What does this say about his humility? How does pride prevent people from receiving instruction? Why is it important to have a humble heart?
5. Apollos was teachable. He had a heart to learn. Read. Prov.9:7-10. Is your heart ready to learn? Do you seek advice from wise and godly people? Do you read to increase your skills and understanding? How can you become a better learner?
6. The instruction we receive is not simply to inform our mind but to transform our heart and impact our life. What did Apollos do with his new information that he learned? How do you apply the truths of scripture to your life?

Think About it:

Our heart must be ready to hear from the Holy Spirit. We must always seek to grow closer to Jesus. We learn through Bible reading, Bible study, discussion with other believers, and gospel conversations with the lost, to name a few. We can never be too prideful and think that someone who has less education or credentials can't teach us anything. Humility will allow us to learn and help cultivate a teachable spirit.

Moving Forward:

Read Matthew 13:1-9. The seed is the constant in the story and the soil is the variable. Meditate on the truth of this parable and reflect on the condition of the soil of your heart. Is your heart soft, tender, and prepared to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit? Spend time this week reading scripture. Make time to pray daily. Obey the truth of God's word and allow him to lead you each day. Talk to another believer about what God is teaching you through the Bible.