

Priscilla - Lesson Three

Genesis 2 tells us when God created woman. His intention was to make a helpmate for Adam. That phrase literally explodes with meaning; it speaks of love, mutuality, accountability, and wonderful companionship. There are many biblical women we could study who lived out this pattern, but one that stands out in her role as a strong spiritual support is Priscilla. She served her Lord, her husband, and the ministry under troublesome times and yet maintained grace, sweetness and stability.



The Pencil Sketch

For a woman in ministry it means sacrifice, service, and sometimes suffering for a greater cause. It means courage to pick up and go when God says go! That's what we see in this colorful sketch of Priscilla.

1. Find a comfortable spot and read this thumbnail outline of Priscilla's life as God records it: Acts 18:1-28, Romans 16:3-5, 1 Corinthians 16:19, 2 Timothy 4:19. What would you say was her greatest strength?
 - a. Her weakness?

2. As you read through the verses, what are some common colors you noticed about her and her lifestyle?

Learning to Serve

Read Acts 18:1-3

3. One of the great challenges for a Christian woman is discovering her spiritual gifts. The primary goal isn't the discovery of the gift itself, but the faithfulness to use that gift in an unselfish way for God's glory. As you study this woman, what would you say was Priscilla's gift?
 - a. How did she use it to glorify God?

 - b. In what way did the body of Christ benefit from her gift?

*Serve the LORD with gladness:
Come before His presence with singing.
Psalm 100:2*

Learning to Risk

Read Romans 16:3-5

7. What feelings do words like risk, change, and new location conjure up in your mind?
 - a. What is the greatest risk you've taken in your life?
 - b. Are there risks God might be prompting you to take this summer/year? If so, can you share them?

8. How has God used unexpected events in the past to help you grow in your faith?
 - a. Does it encourage you to know that though your life will constantly change, God never does?
 - b. How can you begin to prepare spiritually for the unexpected future?

9. What changes have you been challenged to make in your life as a result of your adventure with God?

Life is not a problem to be solved, it is an adventure to be lived."

John Eldredge

10. Everyone measures risk differently. Most people, when faced with change and risk, react with some degree of tentativeness. Look over the following list and rate the level of risk as you see it: (Use 1 as the highest risk and 10 as the lowest)

	Starting a new bible study
	Explaining your faith to an unbeliever
	Changing jobs
	Moving to another state
	Cooking a new recipe
	A shark dive
	Speaking in front of a large crowd
	Changing hairstyles
	Dating as an adult
	Obeying what God has told you to do

11. List some of the qualities you believe make up a spiritual risk-taker?

- a. Are some of these evident in you?

*For whoever desires to save his life will lose it,
but whoever loses his life for 'My sake' and
the gospel's will save it.*

*For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world,
and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give
in exchange for his soul?
Mark 8:35-37*

Read Romans 16:3-5

12. Think of a time when you had guests in your home. Did they find Christ in your home?
- List some practical ways you could use your home more effectively to serve the Lord.



Personally Tailored

Do you personally know someone who exhibits some of these qualities of hospitality, dedication, and sacrifice? Take time this week to make a phone call or write a note of appreciation.

13. Some of us who have been evacuated due to natural disasters have real knowledge and sympathy for those forced to leave their home. Describe what you imagine it would be like to be compelled to leave, not just your house, but also your own country.
- How willing would you be to leave your home and to serve in the ministry wherever the Lord led you?
14. Read Acts 18:24-26. When this couple heard Apollos speak, they were impressed with his ability but realized his message was incomplete. How did they handle the situation?
- What kind of impact did this encounter with Aquila and Priscilla have on Apollos and the spreading of the gospel?

- b. Do you believe God has a role for every believer in advancing the gospel?
- c. What role has God called you to?

15. One of Priscilla's great features was her willingness to sacrifice for the good of her husband, her family, and the gospel; to open herself and her home for the benefit of others. Select an activity in the following list (or come up with one that is comparable) and commit to doing it this week.

Write your choice below:

A – Save the money you would spend going out to dinner for one or two meals and give it to a particular ministry in the church.

B – Look over your schedule (especially as summer begins). Are there any items that now appear to be self-serving or excessive that you could give up for the good of someone else, using the time to focus on someone else's need.

C – Consider fasting as a way of sacrificing your own desires/pleasures for a time of focusing on God. Calculate the time, attention, and energy you put into preparing and enjoying a meal. Then try to redirect that toward God and prayer.

D – Consider a short-term missions trip or minister to a needy group of people in the community.

E – Compare the practice of the early church (Acts 2:44-45) with your practice in 2009. Do you know anyone who may have needs (maybe unexpressed); do you have anything that can meet that need? It doesn't necessarily have to be financial; it could be time, a particular possession, or something else. How can you sacrificially meet their need?

F – If you are married, read Ephesians 5:22-33. What can you do as a godly wife to sacrificially express respect and honor to your husband?

16. As we close this study, what impressed you about Priscilla's life service?

a. What would you want to incorporate from her life into yours?

17. How does Priscilla illustrate Jesus' words in John 15:12-13?

18. With this in mind, spend a moment to pray for the same kind of dedication and compassion you have seen in Priscilla. Write out your prayer and ask the Holy Spirit to give you life application to practice this today.

19. Looking over the five women we've studied this year, in what way, have you learned to....

Embrace your life commitments--like Ruth

Stand in the gap--like Esther

Saturate yourself in the worship of Jesus Christ--like the Samaritan woman

Devote yourself to Christ--like Mary Magdalene

Perform selfless service--like Priscilla?

20. Which woman was most meaningful to you and why?

Close this time by reading over the words of another godly woman.
Try to make her words...yours!

*Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.
Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect, and use every power, as Thou shalt choose.
Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.*

Francis Havergal

