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Remembering Aquila and Priscilla—Together

A Reading Honoring Paul and Kay—Together

Lee Magness

This reading gathers passages in Acts and the letters of Paul that refer to the wonderful married couple, Priscilla and Aquila, who ministered to and beside so many early Christians, including the Apostle Paul. The goal is to celebrate their multifaceted and mutual ministry and to honor Paul and Kay Watson whose ministries over the decades have blessed so many.

Stanza 1

After this, Paul left Athens and came to Corinth.

And there he found a Jew from Pontus, named Aquila.

He had recently come from Italy, he and his wife Priscilla,

because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome.

Paul visited with them,

and because they shared the same trade, he stayed and worked with them,

because they were tentmakers by trade. (Acts 18.1–3)

The couple came from very different places,
one from the edge of the empire, one from its heart,
but the couple came—together.

They joined in one place,
then, jolted from their home, journeyed to another.

Home was where they wound up, home was where they worked,
home was where they were—together.

They shared a city, a street, a shop, a skill—tents and tarps, sails and shelters—
a trade for the world they wouldn't have traded for the world.

It kept them. It kept them together.

And they shared it with others—their home, their handiwork, their hospitality.

Devoted to one another, they dared make the foreigner family.

Stanza 2

After Paul stayed in Corinth for quite some time,

he said good-bye to the brothers and sisters,

and, along with Priscilla and Aquila, he sailed for Syria. . . .

When they arrived in Ephesus, he left Priscilla and Aquila

and entered the synagogue and conversed with the Jews. (Acts 18.18–19)

The couple walked hand in hand in ministry,
 walked hand in hand with others in ministry—
 walked and rode and sailed.
 They gave their goodbyes, said their shaloms,
 to old friends, brothers and sisters in the faith.
 They graced their greetings, hailed and helloed,
 with new friends, brothers and sisters in the faith.
 They knew when to accompany the lonely
 and when to leave behind their company.
 And in their new city, new culture, they made their new life—together.
 And in their new community they made a new commitment,
 to worship and witness, to share and serve—together.

Stanza 3

*Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, arrived in Ephesus,
 an educated man, strong in his understanding of the scriptures.
 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord,
 and stirred by the Spirit he was speaking and teaching accurately about Jesus,
 though he only knew the baptism of John.
 And this man began speaking boldly in the synagogue.
 But when they heard him, Priscilla and Aquila took him under their tutelage
 and explained the way of God to him even more accurately. (Acts 18.24–26)*

The couple ministered by mentoring—together.
 So grounded in grace, so founded in faith,
 walking the way, pointing out the path,
 they mentored the mentors, taught the teachers,
 guided the guides, pastored the pastors.
 They encouraged those who studied and shared,
 who worded the way.
 Then they gently corrected them,
 saving the lost from the error of their ways,
 saving the saved from errors along the way.
 Aquila and Priscilla, Priscilla and Aquila,
 it mattered not who went first, they taught—together.

Stanza 4

*Greet Prisca and Aquila, my coworkers in Christ Jesus. (Romans 16.3)
 Aquila and Prisca greet you earnestly in the Lord,
 along with the church meeting in their house. (1 Corinthians 16.19)
 Greet Prisca and Aquila. (2 Timothy 4.19)*

The couple was co-
They were co-workers in the cause of Christ,
 planting and partnering, encouraging and correcting.
They were co-greeters in letters and in life,
 co-greeters in the love of the Lord.
They were co-hosts to the solitary servant,
 co-hosts to whole house-fuls of worshippers,
 house-churches they had taught to be as hospitable,
 as gracious as they.
They were co- with each other,
 co- with others, in each city, each service.
Aquila and Priscilla, Priscilla and Aquila—together.

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