

APOLLOS

ACTS 18: 24-28

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Apollos was a preacher.
    - 1. Bible describes as having great talent and ability.
    - 2. Kind of preacher we'd drive miles to hear at a gospel meeting.
    - 3. Powerful speaker.
  - B. Despite this not one word he uttered is ever recorded.
    - 1. No great sermon.
    - 2. No eloquent statement .
    - 3. No profound proverb is accredited to him .
  - C. The lesson we learn from him is one he delivers without words.
- I. APOLLOS , THE MAN:
- A. Introduced to us in ACTS 18:29.
    - 1. The bible says he was:
      - a. A Jew from Alexandria
      - b. eloquent .
    - 2. There is some debate on how this word eloquent is interpreted.
      - a. Webster " marked by forceful and fluent expression".
      - b. From this definition many affirm Apollos as a gifted, persuasive speaker.
      - c. Greek word " logios" was used.
        - 1) Some say that this is not a reference to quality of speech.
        - 2) Rather denotes a state of being learned or cultured.
    - 3. Stop argument by pointing out that Apollos probably possessed both these qualities.
    - 4. Apollos was educated.
      - a. ACTS 18:24.
        - 1) Note the verses say he was mighty in scriptures.
        - 2) Suggests he was knowledgeable in Jewish laws, prophets and writings.
      - c. The mentioning of him being from Alexandria is significant.
        - 1) Chief city of Egypt.
        - 2) Renowned center for learning.
      - d. Apollos could well have experienced the benefits of coming from such a cultured place.
    - 5. Luke stresses his speaking ability.
      - a. Verse 24 says he possessed a fervent spirit.
      - b. Vs. 28 , he was able to powerfully refute the Jews.
    - 6. Whether he spoke in rich smooth tones or used flowing sentences, we don't know.
    - 7. We know what talents he had , he used them for the Lord.
    - 8. Lesson learned.
      - a. He used the natural abilities God gave him with the opportunities afforded him.
      - b. He accomplished good things.
      - c. We should strive to do likewise.

## II. APOLLOS, THE PREACHER:

- A. Possessed great faculties.
- B. Able speaker with keen mind.
- C. One might say he had it all.
  - a. Until he met Aquila and Priscilla !
- D. ACTS 18:24.
  - a. Came to Ephesus.
  - b. Was accurately teaching Jesus.
    - 1) Except of a problem he was unaware of.
    - 2) He had only been taught the baptism of John.
      - aa. A baptism of repentance which looked forward to the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom.
  - c. When Aquila and Priscilla detected this in his teaching, They took him aside and taught him more accurately.
    - 1) They taught him what he needed to know about Jesus and His kingdom.
- E. Upon learning the complete message he began to teach it.
  - 1. ACTS 18: 27-28
    - a. Greatly helped the brethren at Achaia.
    - b. Publicly and powerfully refuted the Jews.
    - c. Demonstrated Jesus was the Christ.

## IV. APOLLOS , LESSONS LEARNED.

- A. The importance of possessing the whole truth.
  - 1. Apollos was sincere and fervent in his teaching.
  - 2. He taught what he believed was the truth.
    - a. His message was found lacking.
  - 3. It was incomplete , neither sincerity or fervency can make up for lack of truth.
  - 4. Same true today.
    - a. Sincere preachers , eloquent speakers , and knowledgeable teachers all fall short in their efforts if they fail to present all the truth.
  - 5. Good intentions without the truth will lead people to hell .
- B. Aquila and Priscilla teach an important lesson.
  - 1. They approached one they saw needing further instruction.
  - 2. Did not allow themselves to be intimidated or dissuaded by his eloquence and knowledge.
  - 3. They taught him the truth, so his understanding could be more accurate.
  - 4. They taught us that it is possible for us to teach someone who may be more talented and knowledgeable than ourselves.
  - 5. You can teach people smarter or more book learned than yourself.
    - a. The flipside is also true.
    - b. You can learn from people less gifted and less intelligent than yourself.
  - 6. This great eloquent man Apollos listened to the instruction of these two , and when he saw it to be true, he accepted it.
  - 7. No display of big ego or foolish pride kept him from receiving proper instruction.
    - a. Even if it was from the mouths of tent makers !