

Sermon title: Living Mobile for the Glory of God:
(*Aquila & Priscilla- a remarkable missional marriage*)

Scripture passage: Acts 18:1-5,18-19

Clearwater Bay International Baptist Church

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We will take a break from our Titus study today to encourage our brother Jingming and sister Xinjie as they depart this week for Taiwan. The truth is that in a global city like Hong Kong many of you won't be here forever. God will move you to Japan or Indonesia or back home to Beijing or to Dubai. As Christians, we are all called to live for the glory of God and we are all called to live out the Great Commission. "As we are going"....make disciples. So, **the location changes. The task remains the same.**

I want to share about a married couple in the Bible that intrigues me for many reasons. Their names are Aquila & Priscilla. I call them 'a remarkable missional marriage'. I'd like to present them to us today as a model of how to live out the Great Commission as a Christian family and I hope to let their lives be a parting word to Jingming and Xinjie and to all of us.

What I want to do briefly is read the passages where we find them in the New Testament and make some observations about their lives and what we can learn from them.

So, if you'll turn to the book of **Acts and chapter 18**, we will start there.

1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. **2** And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. And he went to see them, **3** and because he was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers by trade. **4** And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus.

18 After this, Paul stayed many days longer and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had cut his hair, for he was under a vow. **19** And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there, but he himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

20 When they asked him to stay for a longer period, he declined. **21** But on taking leave of them he said, "I will return to you if God wills," and he set sail from Ephesus.

So, this Jewish couple is from Pontus, over on the Black Sea but they had moved at some time to Rome. They were kicked out of Rome in AD 49 and settled down in Corinth. They met Paul there in Corinth and when he decided to leave for Syria, they went with him.

But Paul left them in Ephesus over in Western Turkey on the sea and they remained there some time.

We have some insight into what kind of lives they lived while in Ephesus. Look at **Acts 18: 24-26**

24 Now a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent man, competent in the Scriptures. **25** He had been instructed in the way of the Lord. And being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. **26** He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

What kind of ministry did they do in Ephesus? They disciplined people. They instructed people in theology.

Now look over in **1 Corinthians 16:19**.

19 The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

Here we see our beloved couple again and they're still in Ephesus and they have a church in their house, a house church.

In **Romans 16:3** we see them again.

3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, **4** who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles

give thanks as well. **5 Greet also the church in their house.**

So, they were from Northern Turkey on the Black Sea. They moved to Rome at some point but got run out of town back in AD 49. They settled in Corinth for some time before meeting Paul. From there they caught a ride with Paul to Syria only to be left in Ephesus. Yet, at some time they are back in Rome, the city they'd been kicked out of, and they have a house church there.

This remarkable missional couple has been living mobile for the glory of God all these years and the church has been greatly helped by them. Paul says, *“All the churches of the nations give thanks for them”*.

The last place we see them is in **2 Timothy 4:19**. **Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.** Now they're back in Ephesus again and with Timothy this time. Paul is most certainly writing this letter to Timothy near the end of his life and Aquila and Priscilla are still going. They're still being missional: still living mobile for the glory of God.

Here church is a couple I commend to you. Here is a remarkable missional marriage. Here is a couple who knows what it means to live mobile for the glory of God.

A few things we see about them.

- **They lived mobile. They let the Holy Spirit blow them wherever he wished.** Pontus, Rome, Corinth,

on the way to Syria stopping instead in Ephesus, back to Rome and back to Ephesus.

- **Wherever the Holy Spirit took them, they were intentional and missional.** Tentmaking in Corinth. House church in Ephesus. Instructing people in theology. House church in Rome.
- **They gave all they had for the churches.** Risking their necks for Paul. All the churches in Asia gave thanks for them.

Jingming and Xinjie, it seems that the Holy Spirit is blowing you over to Taiwan to do the same things that you have done here, the same things that Aquila and Priscilla did:

- live intentional and missional
- instruct people in the way of God
- open up your home and love people
- pour your life into the churches.

Like Aquila and Priscilla, Taiwan may not be your last stop. God may call you somewhere else after a while. But your job is to keep living mobile for the glory of God and be a missional family. Go where he leads you without hesitation. We rejoice that you are following the Lord. “As you are going, make disciples”.

And I challenge all of us, whether you are single or married, whether you are male or female, wherever the

Holy Spirit may lead you next....let him lead you where he wills. The *where* is up to God. Our job is to live mobile for his glory and obey him.

Church, “As you are going, make disciples”.