

Ministry of Multiplication

1. The ministry of multiplication includes several steps. What is the first step?
2. Both Apollos (18:25) and the disciples (19:2-4) Paul met had incomplete information concerning the gospel.
 - a. What did they know?
 - b. What did they not know?
 - c. Why is this important?
3. Chuck DeCleene, a former missionary to Ecuador and Pastor of Evangelism at Saylerville Baptist Church, says, "Evangelism is more caught than taught."
 - a. What do you think he meant by this statement?
 - b. How does his view differ from "regular" teaching methods?
 - c. Do you think the Apostle Paul would agree with this statement?
 - d. How does this line up with Jesus' teaching method (Matt. 4:19)?
 - e. How are you doing in personal evangelism?
4. Besides fellow workers, teachers and leaders, what else do we gain by a ministry of multiplication?
5. Paul left Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus (v. 18 and 19).
 - a. Were they ready to be left alone?
 - b. How do we know this?
 - c. What ministry did Aquila have after being taught by Priscilla and Aquila?
 - d. Why is this significant to our church today?
6. What implications for discipleship can you take away from this passage?

¹After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth. ²And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them. ³So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers. ⁴And he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks. ⁵When Silas and Timothy had come from Macedonia, Paul was compelled by the Spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ. ⁶But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles." ⁷And he departed from there and entered the house of a certain man named Justus, one who worshiped God, whose house was next door to the synagogue. ⁸Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized. ⁹Now the Lord spoke to Paul in the night by a vision, "Do not be afraid, but speak, and do not keep silent; ¹⁰for I am with you, and no one will attack you to hurt you; for I have many people in this city." ¹¹And he continued there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them. ¹²When Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews with one accord rose up against Paul and brought him to the judgment seat, ¹³saying, "This fellow persuades men to worship God contrary to the law." ¹⁴And when Paul was about to open his mouth, Gallio said to the Jews, "If it were a matter of wrongdoing or wicked crimes, O Jews, there would be reason why I should bear with you. ¹⁵But if it is a question of words and names and your own law, look to it yourselves; for I do not want to be a judge of such matters." ¹⁶And he drove them from the judgment seat. ¹⁷Then all the Greeks took Sosthenes, the ruler of the synagogue, and beat him before the judgment seat. But Gallio took no notice of these things. ¹⁸So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria, and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. ¹⁹And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. ²⁰When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent, ²¹but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing." And he sailed from Ephesus. ²²And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch. ²³After he had spent some time there, he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples. ²⁴Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. ²⁵This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. ²⁶So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately. ²⁷And when he desired to cross to Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him; and when he arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace; ²⁸for he vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

Read: Acts 19:1-20

Monday

v. 1-5 — In this passage we find Paul on his third missionary journey. Verse 1 says Paul, while visiting Ephesus, found “some disciples”; while the Greek word translated “disciple” means, “a learner” or “student,” it does not necessarily denote a Christian believer. Do you think the text indicates these disciples were saved? Whose disciples do you think they were (v. 3, 4)? Do you know anyone who knows an incomplete or erroneous version of the gospel? Commit to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with them.

Tuesday

v. 4-7 — Both Apollos and these twelve disciples had a gap in their understanding concerning the gospel. What key elements of the gospel did Paul share with them? Why is it necessary for people to “believe on” Jesus Christ and not just repent of their sins? What part does repentance play in salvation? What happened when these men responded to the message Paul preached?

Wednesday

v. 8-10 — How long did Paul spend in Ephesus? Why do you think he stayed there so long on this visit? After some of the Jews resisted Paul, he “withdrew the disciples” (v. 9). Did his ministry in Ephesus change? What ministry did Paul have in Ephesus (v. 10b)?

Thursday

v. 11, 12 — God was clearly at work in Ephesus (this is likely one reason Paul stayed so long). Why do you think God was working “unusual miracles” through Paul in Ephesus? Use a Bible dictionary or encyclopedia and do some study on ancient Ephesus.

Friday

v. 13-16 — Ephesus was a city of magic and sorcery. Some magical papyri from Ephesus survive to this day. Does it surprise you to find the sons of a Jewish priest practicing magic? Notice that they call on the name of Jesus. In Exodus 20:7, God commands that His name is not to be used in vain. Do Christians today have any tendency to treat God's name as a magic charm?

Saturday

v. 17-20 — The people of Ephesus were not strangers to mystical or magical occurrences. Why did “great fear” fall on those who heard what happened to the sons of Sceva? What was the response of those who practiced magic (v. 19)? Whenever the Spirit of God is at work, the false shadows of the enemy pale in comparison. When it is God's Spirit that is at work, lives are changed in such a way that it is evident to believers and unbelievers alike.
