

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY
ACTS 18:18-28

INTRODUCTION:

1. Illustration

2. Acts 18:18-28

3. What are the necessary elements to serve the Lord effectively in ministry?

I. GIFTED – GOD USES DIFFERENT PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT GIFTS

A. Paul has been the primary focus in the work of the church.

B. Now there is an emphasis on Apollos.

C. God had equipped him for service with gifts different from that of Paul.

D. Apollos had a better understanding of Greek thought gained at Alexandria.

E. He was a cultured man, “eloquent” v.24. “a man of culture”, “learned”

F. He had a powerful grasp of the Scriptures, “powerful.” “thorough”

G. He was a dynamic communicator, v. 25, “fervent in spirit”, “boiling over in his spirit”, full of enthusiasm

1. He spoke accurately.

2. He spoke with great passion but knew what he was saying.

H. Apollos would be able to do some things Paul was not able to do.

- I. That did not create jealousy but harmony in their work.
- J. They valued each other's giftedness and uniqueness and cooperated together in the Lord's work.
- K. Few things are worse than petty jealousies between Christians which only discredits us or the work of the Lord.
- L. Our success in ministry is not based on someone else's flaws but God's giftedness. We try to criticize others to build ourselves up.
- M. God uses different people with different gifts in ministry.

II. MENTORS – WE CAN RECEIVE VALUABLE SERVICE FROM THOSE WHO ARE MORE EXPERIENCED IN MINISTRY

- A. This was provided to Apollos by Aquilla and Priscilla.
- B. They took him into their home and “explained the way of God to him more accurately.” V.26
- C. They had learned from Paul and were now committed to disciple Apollos.
- D. Two simple Christian disciples at Ephesus helped disciple the life of the cultured and eloquent Apollos so that he would become a great power for truth and Christ.
- E. God is able to use the less known in Christian work to further the work of those more prominent in ministry.
- F. Their work is no less valuable.
- G. They were committed to helping him understand spiritual truth.
- H. Here we see upward mentoring – elevating someone greater than me.

III. BUILDERS – NEW BUILDERS BUILD UPON THE WORK OF OTHERS V.28

- A. Apollos built upon the work of Paul.
- B. He affirms the truth that Paul previously had shared.
- C. By presenting the same testimony, he helps the people feel more convinced of the truth which they have already heard.
- D. He also sheds additional light.
- E. He puts the same truth in a different form.
- F. He presents it in his own words shaped by his own experience.
- G. Others are able to identify with Apollos where they were not able to identify with Paul.

IV. ENCOURAGERS – MORE EXPERIENCED SERVANTS ARE A REINFORCEMENT TO THOSE ALREADY IN ACTIVE SERVICE V.27-28

- A. Achaia i.e. Corinth
- B. The church was not in a state of inactivity when Apollos arrived.
- C. What he did there was not to start a new work but to help those already on the field.
- D. He helped them by sustaining their endeavor to advance the cause of Christ.
- E. We need to be receptive to those who can help us.
- F. Your ministry might be one as an encourager.

V. GOD-CENTERED – ALL OF US SERVING IN MINISTRY MUST BE CENTERED IN THE WILL OF GOD

- A. V.21, “I’ll come back to you again, if God wills.”
- B. God will determine when, where, and what will be our next ministry.
- C. This attitude keeps our expectation level in check.
- D. We are reminded by this verse that our work is the Lord’s.
- E. What we do is by Him and for Him.

CONCLUSION:

1. God is calling each of us to join Him and become partners in his ministry. He is calling you.
2. John Newton