

Why did Paul tell Timothy to take *just a little* wine for the sake of his stomach? [*Pause for effect.*] Because it was *Paul's* bottle.

Trust me. Paul would think that is funny. I know he would. My name is Priscilla, and Paul and I are dear friends.

I could offer to teach you how to make tents, but I've chosen instead to bring my offering of exhortation.

I hear that most of you have less fear of dying than of public speaking. I do not pretend to stand before you as confident as I may seem. I am always nervous speaking before a group - always. But, I also love it. Aquila was shocked when he first heard me preach a sermon. He had no idea that I could do such a thing. To be completely honest, I had no idea either. However, as I stood there talking about the love of Jesus Christ and salvation brought to us through him, I felt for the first time as if I were completely at home. I could never explain it. I only know that I am called to it. And, between you and me, I am a gifted preacher.

Apollos was a good student. It took him a while to get the meat of the message correct, but he was a great preacher. It also took him a while to have ears to hear what I was teaching him, but Aquila helped him to better understand that of the two of us, I am the one with this gift. Aquila keeps me on track; he helps to keep the church organized. We each have different gifts, you see.

So, Paul and I had a great deal of fun spreading the Gospel to as many people as we could. I'll share a little known fact with you. We were somewhat competitive about how often we were asked to speak. It was a friendly competition, but I so delighted in sending him a note every time I was invited to preach. Paul instead sent me letters with glowing reviews attached. Modesty was never one of his gifts!

So I'm an exhorter, a preacher, and a person willing to stand before others to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. I do not fall into the 75% of the population who are terrified to do such a thing. Neither do I fear death. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and because he died, was buried, and then resurrected, I know that my physical death is a mere passage from this life into the glorious life – a life that includes being in the very presence of my Creator for all of eternity. This is my true gift. If my speaking can help others to see this, then I am honored to have that opportunity. Thank you.

## *Discussion Suggestions - Priscilla*

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In her monologue, Priscilla states that she is an “exhorter, a preacher, a person willing to stand before others to proclaim the good news of Jesus.” She, and her husband, Aquila, were tentmakers by trade, but also were missionaries in the truest sense of the word. They, along with Paul, spread the Gospel of Christ both at home and abroad – teaching, nurturing, and guiding others in God’s truth, so that they in turn could also spread the Good News.

Consider for a moment your faith journey –

- ✦ Who were the “Priscilla’s” in your life?
- ✦ Who were the people who taught you about Christ and led you to a relationship with Him?
- ✦ Discuss how you have followed their example of service and teaching and helped others in their faith journey.
- ✦ Who needs you to be their “Priscilla,” to teach them the way of Christ so that they might become strong in their faith and share the Good News with others?

Teaching and sharing with others the Good News of Christ does not necessarily mean that we must participate in public speaking, something with which many of us are uncomfortable. Much of what we teach others is by our example, *how* we live our lives. Probably as you discussed the questions above, you named many people who taught you about Christ simply by the way they lived their lives. Our words are important. Telling others about Christ is a crucial aspect of living a Christian life. However *living* those words is just as, if not more than, important in spreading the Good News of Christ.

### **PRAYER:**

Dear God, we give thanks for all those who have come before us as teachers, leaders, and nurturers in our faith. Please help us to have the heart of Priscilla. Fill us with the desire to teach and help others truly understand Your love and Your saving grace. Help us to live our lives so that what we do speaks volumes to others about Your love for us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.