

Small Group Questions

Sermon: 10 September 2023



SCRIPTURE

Acts 18:24-28

OVERVIEW

Martin began by highlighting two different interpretations of the word discipleship. The first, which he called "Big D" discipleship, refers to every aspect of our lives. To be a Christian means to be a follower and apprentice of Jesus. A helpful definition of "Big D" discipleship comes from John Mark Comer:

- Being with Jesus (Intimacy)
- Becoming Like Jesus (Formation)
- Doing what Jesus did (Mission)

The second, which he called "small d" discipleship, is where we discuss accountable

relationships that exist to help us grow in our following of Christ. This is our focus for this week.

In the passage, we see four key elements about accountable relationships:

1. **We all need it.**

The way scripture describes Apollos is impressive. You might expect that he has it all together, is confident, and no longer needs discipleship. However, we see that alongside his strengths, he also has weaknesses. So it is for all of us, regardless of our age or stage of life. No matter how long we've been following Christ and how mature we are, we all need others. We need them to help, support, strengthen, and guide us through every season of life.

2. **It's personal.**

Priscilla and Aquila take Apollos aside to provide input into his life. Discipleship is often unseen; it happens where no one else sees. It's personal and seeks the well-being and growth of those involved. The goal is to help one another flourish in our walk with Christ. These accountable relationships can be initiated by either those seeking guidance or those who feel they could be a blessing as disciplers. We need to be proactive and deliberate in forming discipleship relationships.

3. **It's challenging.**

Priscilla and Aquila identified a significant problem with Apollos - he had some major flaws in his understanding of the gospel that needed correction. Discipleship is challenging because, for us to grow, we need people who can provide constructive criticism and correction in our lives. Love isn't just accepting everyone for who they are and supporting everything they do. Love is embracing everyone for who they are and caring enough to want the best for them, challenging anything that hinders their growth in the Lord. We need these challenges.

4. **It's encouraging.**

Alongside the challenges, discipleship is also encouraging. In the passage, we see that the result of Priscilla and Aquila's challenge is that Apollos feels encouraged and empowered to continue preaching. Discipleship should empower us to run the race set before us, build one another up, affirm each other's gifts and callings, and help each other step out in faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What obstacles do you face in being disciplined and discipling others?
2. What do you find more challenging, receiving challenge or encouragement? Why?
3. Where do you feel that you particularly need or want to grow this year?