

# The Leaven of God's Kingdom

## The Kingdom spreads like yeast through **ordinary people in ordinary places**

Mat 13:33 ESV He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

**It spread by word of mouth from one person to another** - in houses, in the streets, in prisons, by the riverside, in the synagogue, in the public square, by friends and family, through signs and wonders

## Want to talk about two such people -- Priscilla and Aquila

**Paul left Athens and went to Corinth** --- Act 18:2-4 ESV 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.

- Paul went to see them --- **he was acting as leaven** --- (he led them to the LORD OR disciplined them)
- It is as if God brought them to Corinth ahead of Paul - to provide a home and an income 18 months
- They were **ordinary people**, using their business and their home to expand the kingdom of God

**18 months later they go to Ephesus with Paul and stay there after he leaves - now they become leaven**  
Act 18:18-19 ESV 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**.....19 **And they came to Ephesus, and he left them there**.....

**Now they become leaven -- by taking initiative to disciple Apollos - they were not intimidated by him**  
Act 18:24-26 ESV 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.

## **They become leaven by hosting a church in their home in Ephesus**

1Co 16:19 ESV The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

## **Eventually moved back to Rome and once again had a church in their home - and a testimony**

Rom 16:3-5 ESV 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. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.

## **Who was most influential in leading you to a relationship with Jesus? - Go and do the same**

- Those who were the leaven were unschooled fishermen...people who sold purple cloth, tentmakers, jailers, tax collectors, prostitutes, and soldiers -- ordinary people in ordinary circumstances
- What is it in your life that God wants to use as leaven for the kingdom of God?