Messy Grace **– wk 13 – Mamma taught you better!**

**Happy Mother’s Day! Always a pleasure to honor mom’s – we love you all so much. Not every mom is a mommy or a spiritual mom.**

**The Mystery of Motherhood (baby carrier)**

**When you become a parent, a curious change takes place. You begin to think about yourself less and a large percentage of your time, energy, and thoughts are now focused on the well being of your child. Compelled in your heart. \*\* Nobody more so than mothers.**

**We are in letter to the Corinthians in the NT**

**Written by Apostle Paul to a church he planted 5 yrs earlier, lived there nearly 2 years - At times wild seaport city and entertainment city.**

**A church struggling to live for God - I think, every person has a mom. Mom’s in Corinth, what was going in their minds when some of the craziness broke out. Mamma taught you better…**

**Paul lovingly & truthfully addresses each issue w/ grace – no matter how messy it got – but apparently, he had some help.**

**What does a crazy church in Corinth have to do with Mother’s? Well – there is a dynamic woman in the Corinth’s story that I think models a great woman of God and mother.**

**She is the kind of woman I hope my daughters become and your sons marry, and the kind of person my wife is… The Woman of God – Pricilla**

**1 Cor 16:19 The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly (affection of old friends- shared memories) in the Lord… (why would he mention them… to the Corinth church?)**

**Here Aquilla is first, but in ministry references Priscilla is first. Her name is listed first 4 of the 6 times. This is important as that tells us of her specific influencer.**

**Pic - Who is this woman mentioned throughout the NT by Paul?**

**Was she a mother – most likely. Tradition holds that she was.**

**Let’s back up – Who is this mom?**

**(map) Paul was in Athens before Corinth (Acts 17)**

**Disciples were made, but he met a lot of public and legal opposition – tired and exhausted he goes to Corinth.**

**Paul moves to Corinth – new Friends (Acts 18)**

**A wild city with a wild entertainment district and a wild reputation to match. Some of the first people he met, Jewish couple Aquila & Pricilla – they just moved from Italy. They were tent makers (leather workers) like Paul. They were followers of Jesus - live and worked together.**

**A deep friendship developed – works days, he lead them to Christ.**

**(Acts 18) As they all preach in Corinth with Paul - the number of disciples grows. A church is planted in part from her labor.**

**(Spiritual mom in Corinth)**

**They move to Ephesus (Acts 18)**

**Nearly 2 years later, Paul, Pricilla and Aquilla all move to Ephesus to share the gospel and plant a church. Paul lives there 3 yrs.**

**Paul heads back to Jerusalem to check in (1 Cor 16:19)**

**Pricilla and Aquilla are left in Ephesus to look after the church. (Pr named 1st) The church met in their home. (Spiritual mom in Ephesus)**

**While in Eph a young passionate follower of Jesus shows up (Acts 18)**

**A young dynamic preacher from Alexandria. Dynamic speaker – but was lacking in understanding a few basics. They (her name is first) teach him about the Jesus Christ. (Spiritual mom to Apollos)**

**A few years later - Paul returns to Corinth (Romans 16:3)**

**There he writes his longest letter, Romans. P&A are now back in Rome hosting a large house church. In the letter he gives a greeting to his gospel co-workers Pricilla and Aquilla (Spiritual mom in Rome)**

**Years later, Paul in a letter to Timothy - in a Roman jail (2 Tim 4:19)**

**P&A are now back in Ephesus. Paul tells Tim to say hello to Pricilla and Aquilla His loyal and faithful friends. Pricilla leads the list…**

**Working alongside Timothy - (Spiritual mom to Timothy)**

**Priscilla and Aquila are among some of the earliest know missionaries. Priscilla is believed by many to be the first female preacher.**

**A number of scholars even believe she wrote Hebrews.**

**Some believe the mention of her husband was only to separate her from other contemporary Priscilla’s.**

**Regardless of the speculation - she left a big foot print in many lives**

**Pricilla gives us a snapshot of the heart of a mother.**

**Something we can all follow, How to be a Super Model - Fashion model and role model. Nothing more fashionable than looking like Jesus.**

**Model of Marriage - To Husband - Aquilla**

**Always mentioned together – a love that models team work and faithfulness.**

**A wonderful picture of a marriage on mission.**

**Devoted to each other – inseparable! They went through hardship together, experienced discrimination and loss together, worked together, ministered together. Tradition tell us they were even martyred together –together to the very end.**

**Always putting the Lord first - a divine romance!**

**If you are married - As a mom your priority is your marriage (just like it is for your husband). Priscillas understood this and modeled this. Without a doubt, there was a high degree of love, trust, and respect present in their marriage relationship.**

**Your kids will grow up – and grow out. What then? If you are married, you have a partner that is with you till you die. You need to make sure you feed, nurture, and partner together.**

**A great gift to give – a marriage**

**Model of Love – to others**

**Acts 18:1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. (chased out of home by discrimination) Paul went to see them, 3 and because he was a tentmaker (leather workers) as they were, he stayed and worked with them. 4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.**

**She and her husband welcomed Paul into their home to live.**

**There would be no Corinth church if they did not show their love to him thru hospitality.**

**They do it again in Ephesus - 1 Corinthians 16:19 … Aquilla and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.**

**Moms, like Pricilla – are super models showing love & hospitality. No one can love like you. My mom would let people live with us - teens, young adults, out of prison, troubled adults, homeless.**

**Let’s all learn from the love of our mothers – I have.**

**1 Peter 4:9 - Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.**

**What also stands out is that w/ the hatred and racial discrimination thrown at them, they never retaliated – only loved in response.**

**John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. That is what a super model looks like.**

**Model of loyalty – to Paul and others**

**Letting Paul live with them, traveling with him, showing support and loyalty even when others deserted him.**

**Paul mentions when others were gone, they were there. In his letter to Rome - Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their necks (lives) for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. (they apparently saved his life – as a result all the churches are grateful)**

**A loyalty that they risked their own life for Paul.**

**Thank you, moms – for putting your life on the line for us.**

**Like Priscilla and our moms – let’s live the lost art of loyalty. Faith friends, family, work. When dust settles, I will still be there.**

**Model of work**

**Acts 18:3 - …and because he (Paul) was of the same trade he stayed with them and worked, for they were tentmakers (leather workers) by trade…**

**She was not afraid to work with her hands or get her hands dirty with hard work. I wonder what her hands looked like.**

**I think of my grandma – working her whole life one of 17 children. I think of my mom – a single parent most the time, working several jobs to provide a home and give us special times, holidays, and fun.**

**Mom’s your hard work is teaching us that sometimes in life, you need to get a few blisters on your hand and not give up.**

**So, don’t give up – we are watching you!**

**Model of sacrifice**

**Chased out of their home in Rome due to racial prejudice (Jewish) – landing in Corinth they met Paul. Then moved to Ephesus. Moved back to Rome (then Rome burned down – Christians singled out) they ended up back in Ephesus.**

**Acts 18:18 After this, Paul stayed many days longer (In Corinth) and then took leave of the brothers and set sail for Syria, and with him Priscilla and Aquila…**

**Moving is hard - Moving so much – giving up so much. WHY?**

**2 reasons: 1. To make sure family is taken care of – 2. moving for the work of the ministry. A life of sacrifice for family and Jesus.**

**I moved a lot as a kid – I used to blame my mom. But now I see it was my mom – a single parent – trying to do her best to take care of us. In 1985 picking up everything to move to Texas from Indiana - here I am.**

**I learned thru her example (like many of your moms) that caring for others and following God takes sacrifice - laying down many things to gain what is more important.**

**Mentioned many times as hosting the churches in their home**

**(Rom 16:5, 1 Cor 16:19) A lot of sacrifice in that – \*\* I think of what my kids sacrificed – late nights, people, hiding in their rooms.**

**Model of grace – To Apollos**

**Priscilla is mentioned as lovingly walking with people thru their faith.**

**Acts 18:24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, (but lacking in the basics) though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.**

**Like a loving parent Priscilla (& Aquilla) pull him aside privately and help him understand the way of God more accurately.**

**From there Apollos makes his way to Corinth. He takes her instruction and carries it back to Corinth (1 Cor 1:12; 3:4-6, 21-22; 4:6, 9) Apollos becomes a dynamic is a teacher/ pastor in Corinth – thanks to a spiritual mom names Priscilla.**

**I remember when I wrecked my mom’s car. We struggled financially – single mom, only car. Mom cleaning houses - I dropped her off and I wrecked it in the driveway… I went back up to her… she loved on me and prayed with me. Months later when we got it back - she let me take it out again – alone. I learned patience, grace, and second chances from my mom.**

**Pricilla and Aquilla were people of grace – gently encouraging and instructing. It was their patience with Apollos that enabled Apollos to preach clear and soundly of grace of Jesus.**

**Mom’s thank you, continue to - or choose to - be a godly woman taking time to invest wisdom into the lives of others, for Christ's glory.**

**Be a person that is quick to discuss God’s Word and maybe even gracefully correct when needed.**

**Model of the gospel – to us**

**She and her husband recognized the call of God on their life had a willingness to going wherever God took them – as the Spirit led.**

**Always using their resources to advance the kingdom for the hope of Jesus. Often risking their life for the good news!**

**In Paul’s very last letter while in prison, writing one last time to Tim in Ephesus. A sad letter – a goodbye to his spiritual son. And P&A are there with Tim. Paul simply says - 2 Timothy 4:19 Greet Prisca and Aquila… (A goodbye to old friends and Priscilla heads the list)**

**To the very end serving, loving, spreading the gospel – faithful.**

**In another to Tim Paul mentions two other great moms - 1 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. (2 Tim 3:14-15 – they taught him scripture)**

**Acts 16:1 tells us Tim’s mother was a believer, but his father was not – she passed this faith to her son. Lois led her Eunice to Jesus – Eunice led her son – Timothy. Eternal impact!**

**Of all the things you can pass down to your children none are more important than this one - or more impacting. Far reaching beyond this life. I am here today a pastor because of Dianna and Pauline (my mom and grandma – told me and introduced me to Jesus – and took me to church. Thank you, mom and grandma!**

**Priscilla lived this verse out – a super Model for us all.**

**Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

**Moms – and any of you.**

**All you worry about, stress about, stay up with… “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” and watch what will happen.**

**Mom’s often reflect the heart of God**

**Thank you giving a reflection of God’s love in our life.**

**Prayer for moms.**

**We are in letter to the Corinthians in the NT**

**Written by Apostle Paul to a church he planted 5 yrs earlier, lived there1 ½ yrs. A at times wild seaport city and entertainment city.**

**Every person has a mom - Mom’s in Corinth – What was going in their minds when some of the craziness broke out.**

**Paul lovingly & truthfully addresses each issue w/ grace – no matter how messy it got – but apparently, he had some help.**

**Last wk - a controversial passage when properly understood… Paul was simply telling them in the context of your culture, accommodate the local customs (if it does not contradict with scripture) so that others might know Jesus. (ie. head covering)**

**This Mother’s Day we are going to look at the second half of that chap. The second part of that chapter deals with some pretty hateful and wild church gatherings… Mamma taught you better than this…**

**Paul challenges us - Don’t be an obstacle for the gospel.**

**build bridge bridges, don’t create walls**

**Keeping in line with that – another wall that had to come done - 1 Corinthians 11: 17 In the following directives I have no praise for you, for your meetings (when you gather together) do more harm than good. (ouch!!) 18 In the first place, I hear that when you come together as a church, there are divisions among you, (they were separating people by class in church - segregation) and to some extent I believe it. (it is hard to imagine you would do that – but I know some of you… and I believe it… ) 19 No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s approval.**

**Those following Jesus see the life and the world different - there will be differences when we gather. Not everyone is a believer. There will be some who feel naturally disconnected (but not unwelcome) Some differences are expected (ie. communion sep)**

**20 So then, (or but) when you come together, it is not the Lord’s Supper you eat,**

**The weekly love feast and Lord’s supper – no shot glass of grape juice and a wafer. It was a meal and in the context of their culture - wine. A celebration like Jesus often did w/ his disciples.**

**21 for when you are eating, some of you go ahead with your own private suppers. (You don’t wait for others – jump up front – and eat without regard to who is there and who has not eaten) As a result, one person remains hungry (usually the people separated for being poor) and another gets drunk. (and some just drink, drink, drink – not thinking – not sharing – getting drunk at church events) 22 Don’t you have homes to eat and drink in? (if you’re going act like that, don’t do it here! BTW – why we use grape juice) Or do you despise the church of God by humiliating those who have nothing? (pointing out the poor and underprivileged in their community – was making Paul sick – your mama taught you better!) What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? (you want me to be happy about your gathering together, but I can’t) Certainly not in this matter!**

**3 Issues:**

* **Segregating people - by income, rich / poor, upper / lower class**
* **Selfish people – me first, front of line, takes w/ no regard for others**
* **Slush people - Getting drunk at church events…**

**Didn’t Mamma teach you better?!**

**This is the opposite of everything the cross represents:**

* **The cross of Christ breaks down barriers – social, racial, and economic barriers – we take communion as family**

**no longer separated – no longer an outcast**

* **The cross of Christ points to selfishness – Jesus laid down his life**

**no longer selfish – set free to serve others**

* **The cross of Christ breaks the power of sin - unleashing power to live lives w/ self-control thru the Spirit of God in us**

**no longer a slush – the control of sin can be broken**

**When we take communion, we memorialize this**

**Paul then reminds and instructs what communion is all about**

**1 Cor 11:23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” (Give thanks - break bread and eat) 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (Give thanks - and drink) 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.**

**27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. (not just unbelievers, but believers who do not understand the sanctity) 28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup. 29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. (whoa??? As a kid in church that always scared me.**

**31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. 32 Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world. 33 So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. 34 Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions. (on this)**

**Four things Paul says to consider about communion:**

1. **What it means – It points to the price paid on the cross by Jesus**

**Never forget the price paid for your freedom - remember the its value**

1. **Who it is for – It is for believers only**

**Only those are family – however, all are welcome to join the family**

1. **How we are treating others – It reflects our love for each other**

**As family we are to esteem others in grace, love, and compassion – “you should eat together” but fill up at home so everyone can eat!**

1. **How we are living - it ultimately reflects our changed life**

**Follow the cross of Christ results in a change in the way we live**

**When we take communion, we memorialize this.**

**We are going to do this today.**

**1 Cor 15:27 For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. 28 When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all. (this not saying Jesus is not God – but rather the eternal submission in his role. He is forever now a body – the image of the invisible God)**

**(this is in regard to not believing in our resurrection ) 33 Do not be misled: “Bad company corrupts good character.” 34 Come back to your senses as you ought and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.**