



# St Barnabas

transforming lives • changing the world

Jesus is the Messiah – Apollos  
Acts 18:24-28



## ACTS 18 v. 24-28

**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, 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.



**27** When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the believers encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.



**28** For he vigorously refuted the Jews in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.



# Pastor SM Lockridge

A sermon should:

**1. *Inform you:***

Stretch your mind,

**2. *Correct you***

'Should tan your hide'

**3. *Inspire you*** - Warm your heart

**4. *Challenge you*** - Provoke the will, challenge you to what the Lord wants you to do.





Apollo, a Jew born at Alexandria, a teacher with natural talent:

*eloquent*.... **λόγιος** derived from **λόγος**,  
a good speaker

*and mighty in the scriptures*.....  
and learned



# GOOD NEWS! God can use your talents





YOU SAY: I am limited, but join the team!

Moses **stuttered**

Abraham was **too old**, David was **too young**.

Peter was **afraid of death**, Lazarus was **dead**.

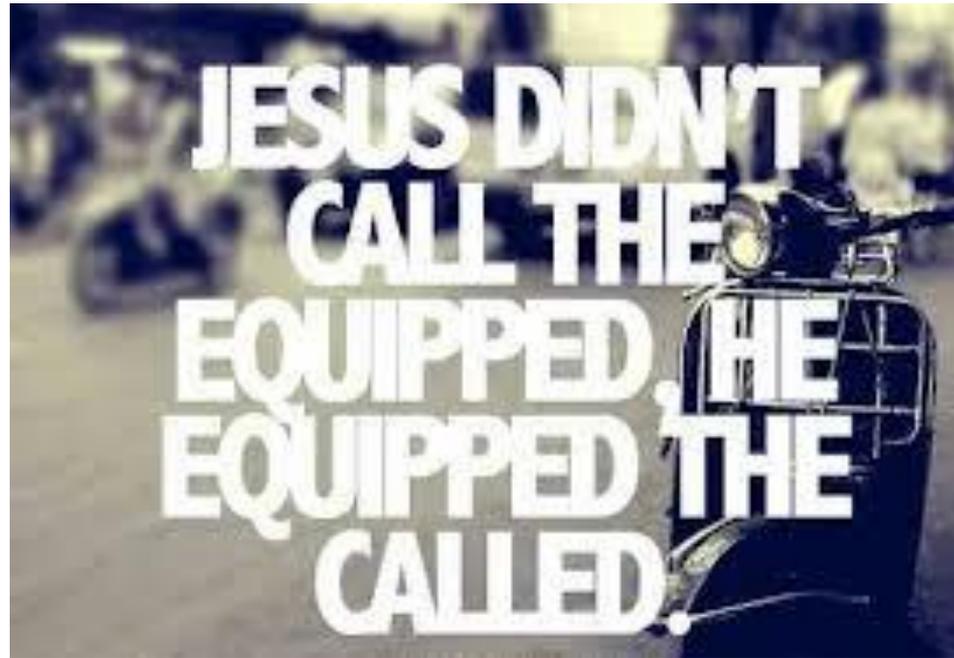
Paul was a **murderer**. So was **Moses**.

Jonah **ran from God** Noah got **drunk**.

Gideon and Thomas both **doubted**.

Elijah was **burnt out**

Samson **had long hair**.





Apollos spoke accurately (**ακριβως**)  
the things of the Lord –

**But** his knowledge was yet incomplete,  
as far as John's ministry would carry him

- no further.
- Knew nothing of the experience of  
the apostles at Pentecost  
(see Acts 19)



Apollos had a **confident spirit**, an **active intellect** and a **teachable heart**

Aquila and Priscilla encouraged his ministry  
-did not **undervalue** it  
-nor were **judgmental** / pharisaical /superior.

Apollos accepted their teaching and adapted his approach – he **changed**.



*Changing lives, changing the world:*

## WHOSE LIFE NEEDS TO CHANGE FIRST?

Nothing can happen **through** you unless something happens **to** you at the deepest level, your “heart”

# Professor Jenny Thomas, Red Cross Children's Hospital, Cape Town, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2015



# Children's ITU, Cardiology





Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it  
*Proverbs 4 v 23*



“The Heart” a massive biblical theme appearing over 900 times in the Bible:

*Changed heart, hard hearts, renewed Hearts, sinful hearts, teachable hearts.*

If we are to transform lives and change the world we need to “**establish/** strengthen our hearts” James 5 v.8, ESV



How established and strong is your **heart**?  
(meaning you at the **deepest level**)

Teachable?



Judgemental?

# If we do not guard our hearts we can become “accidental Pharisees” (Larry Osbourne 2012)

That awkward moment  
when you realize you're  
a Pharisee.



someecards  
user card

# Pharisees: God's SAS!



Passionate, most committed, zealous,  
knowledgeable: much like Apollos

Then they made a mistake –  
watchdogs for God's law



**Love the sinner, hate the sin?  
How about: Love the sinner, hate  
your own sin! I don't have time to  
hate your sin. There are too many  
of you! Hating my sin is a full-time job.  
How about you hate  
your sin, I'll hate my  
sin and let's just  
love each other!**

**- Mark Lowry**





“You have heard ....but let me tell you unless your righteousness exceeds the scribes and Pharisees you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven”

Matthew 5 v20



We can never make it on our own effort or understanding: Scripture guides us to the cross, to the Messiah: to transform our lives then change the world.



CONCLUSIONS: Returning to Apollos and the church of Ephesus, founded by Paul, pastored by Timothy: a great heritage.

In its **passion**, it had lost its **compassion**

*Revelation 2 v 4* To the church at Ephesus: “I know your works, your endurance, but you have abandoned the love you had at first”.



If we do not guard our hearts, our  
passion can drown out our compassion

1 Cor 13:

Without love (αγάπη) you have nothing.

“Come, let us return to the Lord”

Hosea 6 v1