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**Message: twoignite – 2Risk**

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## **2risk**

This is another twoignite Sunday. If you're new here, starting in August of 09 we committed to a year of taking the first weekend of the month and discussing a particular area of marriage and how we can grow in that one area. Then rather than giving you curriculum to read, we give you adventurous ways to live it out. We started with 2play, about enjoying life together, and we offered all kinds of fun adventures that month. Then we did 2sweat, about the importance of taking care of yourself physically and bringing your best into your marriage, and we gave you all free gym memberships. Then we did 2drink, about having wild biblical feast sex in your marriage. It was the most listened to podcast ever from our website. We gave you that menu to discuss, and a romantic night of ballroom dancing. Today we're going to take it a step further. We're going to invite you to new risk together as a couple. Without risk life gets predictable and boring. Maybe your marriage feels that way, predictable, boring, in a rut. Today's message is about breaking out of that rut. It's about deciding together to dangerously live out your faith as husband and wife, and break free from predictability.

I want to look at a rad biblical couple who totally lived out a dangerous faith as husband and wife...Priscilla and Aquila. It's really not fair because his name means eagle and hers means ancient. How lame would that be when you show up at the party, "hi, I'm eagle, and this is my ancient wife." We'll soon discover Priscilla was anything but a helpless old lady...Act 18.

### **Live your faith together**

**Acts 18:1-3**, Priscilla and Aquila were Jews living in Rome when the Roman emperor Claudius issued a decree in AD 49 expelling all Jews from Rome. So, because of their faith, Priscilla and Aquila had to pack up their belongings and get out of town. They ended up in the Greek city of Corinth where they met the apostle Paul. They're vocation was tent making. It was something they did as husband and wife; they sewed together tents and sold them. Interestingly Priscilla and Aquila are mentioned 6 times in the NT, and they're always mentioned together. You never hear about just one of them. It's never like, Aquila went bowling with the guys every Friday night, or Priscilla did a girls weekend in Vegas. No, these two did life together.

When they became followers of Jesus, and we don't know when that was, they naturally lived out their faith together. So when the apostle Paul said, 'listen I'm gonna pack up and go to Ephesus to tell the gospel,' Priscilla and Aquila said, 'we're coming with you.' **Acts 18:18-28**, together, Priscilla and Aquila packed up all their belongings again, shut down their business in Corinth, left all their clients, and went to Ephesus to start over, so together they could help bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to Ephesus, along with Paul.

So they all arrive, set up shop, but in no time flat Paul sets sail to tell other people in other places about Jesus, and he leaves Priscilla and Aquila to hold down the fort in the new church in Ephesus. In fact, the church was in their house. Paul wrote to the church back in Corinth and he made reference to the Ephesian church...

**1Corinthians 16:19, “the churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house.”**

Priscilla rocks. I mean, she moves to Ephesus, helps start a business, serves as co-missionary, runs her house, oh and by the way ‘let’s plant a church in our living room.’ In fact, 4 of the 6 times these 2 are mentioned Priscilla is listed before Aquila, which is unusual and probably points to her unique giftedness. But the only way they could pull it all off, was to do it together, as a husband and wife team.

So there’s Priscilla and Aquila living their faith together, doing the door hangers trying to get their business going, telling people about Jesus, planting a church in their living room. This was a couple committed to living out their faith together as husband and wife.

While Paul was away, an man by the name of Apollos came to Ephesus. He was an eloquent preacher who knew the Jewish Scriptures well. He had the gift of teaching. But he had a limited understanding of Jesus. So together, Priscilla and Aquila reached out to Apollos. They had him in their home and together taught him, **v.26**. Because Priscilla is mentioned first, it may indicate she had a more prominent role in teaching Apollos. Maybe she started and Aquila jumped in. Priscilla answered one question and Aquila another. But what we know for sure is they taught him together. They opened up their house for the purpose of ministry, and together they invested in Apollos. And that joint ministry had tremendous fruit, **v. 28**. How encouraging that must have been for Priscilla and Aquila, to see the results of their ministry together.

Can you imagine the spiritual discussions they had as husband and wife? I picture them sitting at home discussing Apollos’ teaching, and talking about what else he needed to know about Jesus. I see them praying together for strength and wisdom, ‘*God give us the words to say,*’ praying for Apollos to be receptive to the gospel. I imagine them after that first day teaching Apollos, laying in bed as husband and wife at night encouraging each other on how well they did, dreaming together of what God might do through this wise man, Apollos. This is a couple who experienced the joy of living out their faith together. They weren’t just spiritually healthy individuals; they were a team living out their faith together.

My guess is, many if not most couples sitting in this room right now, have at least one spouse longing for that kind of relationship, longing to get beyond work, kids, cooking, cleaning and occasional sex, longing for more in the relationship, longing for a deeper soul connection, but not sure how to get there, thinking it will never happen. Let me encourage you, you can start this month, and we’re going to make it easy for you.

If you're the one holding back in your marriage, not ready to go there, can I speak to you for a minute. As a pastor you may have this picture in your head about the spiritual unity my wife and I have. But let me tell you the truth. I'm better at discussing scripture and praying with you than I am with my wife, and it's my fault. Don't get me wrong, my wife and I are faithful in living out our faith and taking risk. We give our lives to serving Jesus. We live out our faith together in many ways...but there's this piece missing. You see, we hold each other accountable for our own time with God and our own growth, but we don't do much of that together. And to a certain degree we've become spiritual healthy individuals who need to take it to the next level and become a spiritually healthy couple. If it was just up to my wife, we'd be there a long time ago. I've been the one holding back. So this month, I'm saying to those just like me, 'Can we journey together on this one? Can we try some new things as husband and wife to grow together spiritually? Will you join me in that this month? *More details on that later on.*

Let's keep going. At some point, we don't know when, Priscilla and Aquila were called to leave Ephesus, pack up all their belongings again, shut down their business again, hand off the church to someone else, say goodbye to all the relationships, all the people they poured their lives into, and go back to Rome, where they had been expelled from, and assist the new church there, Can you imagine how hard that decision was? I mean they had so much personally invested in the church, the people, the friendships, the leaders they raised up, not to mention their business and their house, to go back into hostile territory. That couldn't have been an easy decision. That wasn't one where Aquila came home, threw the keys on the counter and said, '*pack up the Uhaul, it's time to bolt.*' I imagine them sitting across the dinner table talking, praying for guidance, allowing each other to vent about how hard it would be, talking more, and coming to the decision together to take the risk and follow the Lord again, as a couple, **Romans 16:3-5a**.

### **Risk in faith together**

You see, Priscilla and Aquila not only lived out their faith together as husband and wife, but together they chose to take significant risks by faith. We're not told what exactly the risk is mentioned here in Scripture. But we can be sure of a few things. First, it was something they did together, as husband and wife, not an individual decision. Second, it was a step of faith that affected the churches. Third, it was big. For it to have an impact on all the churches of the Gentiles in their day, it had to be very big. And fourth, it was dangerous. Whatever risk of faith they decided to make here wasn't just something that could've produced a little discomfort, they chose together to take a step of faith that involved risking their lives as a couple. They decided to say, '*ok God, this could go horribly wrong if you don't come through, but we're going to take this dangerous step of faith as husband and wife, trusting you're going to see us through, because we believe you're the one leading us to take this step, so no matter how dangerous it looks, we're taking it, together.*'

Have you ever noticed when you take a risky step of faith...like when you first decide to trust God with your life...or first decide to trust God's word and eliminate some sin out of your life...or first decide to trust a promise of God and take a difficult step of obedience...or first decide to trust God with your finances and tithe...you name it, every time you take some risk to trust God, you grow,

your faith grows and you're blessed. I've never heard anyone say, *'I chose to trust God, and boy was that a mistake.'*

I know in my life, whenever I take a step of faith, I grow, I'm always better for it. In fact, the riskier the step, the more I've grown. And that principle holds true for your marriage. When as husband and wife, you choose to take a step of faith, and together you see God show up and prove faithful, your marriage grows.

When Kay and I decided to pack up our stuff and come to Arizona and lead this ministry, it was risky. What if they don't like us? I was sure you'd like Kay, but I can be a jerk. What if this church that could barely pay it's bills, folded up shop? What if I find that 120 degrees is too stinking hot for a human being? It was risky. We love this place, and our marriage has been blessed by being here. But to get to this place we had to take risk.

You see, if you don't take risks by faith, trusting God to provide where he's leading, then you just let that blessing pass by. And it's not like you see what you've missed, it just goes right past you. So many couples feel like their life together is stale, boring predictable. Maybe in part, it's because you're not taking any risks of faith together as a couple, and you've been letting pass all kinds of blessings God wants to give you.

This month, I want to encourage couples to break out of the boring, stale, predictable rut, and take a step of faith together, maybe a risky step. Kay and I are going to do this. Join us. I'm excited about seeing how God wants to bless our marriages. We're going to make it super easy and enjoyable for you. In fact, husbands, listen up, we're going to help you be an absolute hero to your wife this Valentine's day. This is your opportunity to be Antonio Banderez and Jack Bower all in one. Seriously, you'll spend less and give more to your wife than ever, with a money back guarantee to rock her world.

All you have to do is pick up one of these packets and follow the instructions. Men, we want you to take the lead on this. The packet says *'for men only, don't open in front of your wife.'* You'll see why when you open it up. Women, if you're here without your spouse, you can pick up a packet and give it to your husband, you just can't open it. It's rigged to explode if female fingers try to open it. Seriously guys, don't miss out on this opportunity to be a hero this Valentine's day. Take a risk of faith and pick up your packet.