

Paul's Conversion

Acts 9:1-31

Introduction:

Paul's story is a powerful story of a man passionate in his beliefs but completely misguided. Jesus stepped in and redirected him to the most important mission that ever existed. It changed his direction. He brought people into his life to love him (Ananias) and to stand in the gap for him (Barnabas). Like Paul, we often get misdirected and need Jesus to step in to bring change. We also need to be more like Ananias who despite fear still on faith went to Paul, and like Barnabas we need to willingly step in the gap for people new to the faith.

Scripture for Study:

Message Text: Acts 9:1-31

Matthew 5:43-48

Message Outline:

The way is being stamped out by Paul

Are we still intentional about the way we live?

Paul loses his way while finding Jesus.

Have I lost my way?

Ananias steps in to help Paul on his way

Am I willing to go anywhere God calls.....even my enemies?

Barnabas lets the disciples know that He will stand with Paul

Am I willing to stand in the gap?

Small Group Questions:

1. Christ taught the significance of the early followers of Christ being called "the way" (Isaiah 40:3, and John 1:19-23). How do you think this terminology was significant to the early followers of Jesus? How could it be significant to us today?
2. Do you have areas in your life like Paul that you feel are justified passions but these passions have taken you away from the plan and message of Jesus? How have you seen Jesus correct those thoughts and actions in your life in the past?

3. Ananias had to go to someone who potentially would imprison him or kill him? Why was he willing to go? Why are American Christians often unwilling to go and love their enemies?
4. Read Matthew 5:43-48. If you took this teaching seriously, what area of your life would change today?
5. How do we act like a Barnabus to people who are new to the faith and also don't have everything figured out?

Conclusion:

Narratives are so powerful because they force us to examine our lives and ask questions. The conversion story of Paul is no different. It makes us examine our heart and our actions to see if they are perfectly under the authority of King Jesus.