

Heroes of Faith 3: Paul


July 10–11, 2021

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I. Coat Check for a Stoning


Acts 7:57–60 (NIV) **57** At this they [the Sanhedrin] covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him [Stephen], **58** dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” **60** Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

 Paul was a witness of the first Christian _____

II. The Road to New Life


Acts 9:1–2 (NIV) **1** Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

 Paul was an enemy of the _____

Acts 9:4–6 (NKJV) **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” **5** “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. **6** “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

 Jesus can _____ us in our tracks

Acts 9:17–19 (NIV) **17** Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” **18** Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, **19** and after taking some food, he regained his strength...


 Paul receives forgiveness and healing and was _____

III. The Internship Begins


Acts 9:19–21, 23–25 (NIV) **19** ...Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. **20** At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. **21** All those who heard him

were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?”

23 After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, **24** but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. **25** But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

 Paul is the Scriptures’ second _____

Galatians 1:17–19 (NIV) **17** I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus. **18** Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. **19** I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother.

 Training takes _____ and _____

IV. Friends and Family

Philippians 2:12–18 (The Message) **12-13** What I’m getting at, friends, is that you should simply keep on doing what you’ve done from the beginning. When I was living among you, you lived in responsive obedience. Now that I’m separated from you, keep it up. Better yet, redouble your efforts. Be energetic in your life of salvation, reverent and sensitive before God. That energy is *God’s* energy, an energy deep within you, God himself willing and working at what will give him the most pleasure.

14-16 Do everything readily and cheerfully—no bickering, no second-guessing allowed! Go out into the world uncorrupted, a breath of fresh air in this squalid and polluted society. Provide people with a glimpse of good living and of the living God. Carry the light-giving Message into the night so I’ll have good cause to be proud of you on the day that Christ returns. You’ll be living proof that I didn’t go to all this work for nothing.

17-18 Even if I am executed here and now, I’ll rejoice in being an element in the offering of your faith that you make on Christ’s altar, a part of your rejoicing. But turnabout’s fair play—you must join me in *my* rejoicing. Whatever you do, don’t feel sorry for me.

 Carry the light-giving _____

This Week’s Bible Readings (Use the TCND App if you want to listen):

Sat Rest **Sun** Job 22-28 **Mon** Job 29-37 **Tue** Job 38-42

Wed Ecc 1-3 **Thur** Ecc 4-9 **Fri** Ecc 10-12 **Sat** Rest

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