

W Loving Your Enemy

Week of Feb. 27th
Acts 9:10-22

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus calls us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Matt. 5:43-44). That's a very difficult command, but in Acts 9, we see Ananias live this out in a dramatic context.

1. Read Acts 9:10-16. Why did Ananias initially push back on God's call to go and minister to Saul? Who do you see as a modern-day Saul?
2. Read Acts 8:3 & Acts 9:1-2 for reference on Paul's reputation.
 - How hard do you think it would have been for Ananias to believe what God said to him in Acts 9:15?
 - Can you think of other examples of "unlikely saints" that have been used by God?
3. Ananias had to trust God in order to go and serve Saul. Pastor Kurt reminded us of how the Israelites remembered God's faithfulness to them with "standing stones." (see Joshua 4:20-24 for one example).
 - What are some of your personal "standing stones" (where you can look back and remember God's faithfulness to you)?
 - How can remembering God's faithfulness in the past help us to trust Him in the present and in an uncertain future?
4. Read Acts 9:17-19.
 - As Saul sat blind and hungry for 3 days, what do you think he might have thought, wondered or feared as he waited for Ananias to arrive?
 - Do we see our enemies as being spiritually blind and in need of the light of Christ? How can remembering that we were "once blind" and "enemies of Christ" help us to show grace to our enemies?
 - How do you interact with those who are your "enemy", those who you disagree with at a deep level or those you hold a grudge against? Are there times that you have justified un-Christ like behavior to an "enemy"?
5. Read Acts 9:20-22. Paul's life was transformed, and he proved with his words and his life that Jesus was the Christ. His testimony was powerful!
 - In what ways do your speech and life point to the power of Christ?
 - Do you believe that the gospel changes lives and that changed lives can change society?
 - In what ways is God calling you to "Love Well and Change Lives Through Christ" with your "enemies"?

NOTES:

OTHER RESOURCES

READY TO GO DEEPER?

Studying God's Character and Attributes

Each week we will study a different facet of God's character. Our prayer is that it will enrich our worship of Him, and that our trust in Him will grow as we seek to follow and glorify Him.

This week we will study Jesus as Savior

(written by Paul Finch)

The lengths to which Jesus went to save His people is astounding and should apply to our lives daily, in expressions of gratitude, compelling us to follow Him as Lord until we ultimately live with Him in our heavenly home.

Look up these passages from God's Word, and meditate on the glorious attributes and actions of Jesus the Savior...

Eph 1:3-14 (when He decided to save you; and the benefits)

Rom 5:6-11 (who you were before He saved you, and yet He saved you anyway)

Heb 7:25 (to what degree He saved you)

1 John 2:2 (what He became in order to save you)

2 Cor 5:21 (what he did; what we became)

Finally, consider writing a prayer of thanksgiving for the person you are becoming (Rom 8:29) due to the saving work of Christ Jesus.

Outside our Walls

LOVE WELL

One of our local partners, Springs Rescue Mission, is doing an Easter Outreach for our homeless neighbors. They will be giving out 400 large Easter eggs filled with footcare supplies. They have created an amazon wish list so that we can help provide the contents of the eggs & they will be shipped directly to Springs Rescue Mission.

To purchase from the wish list... <https://rb.gy/rsrvqs>

DIVE IN ON YOUR OWN TO GET READY FOR NEXT WEEKEND

Equipped for One another

1 Corinthians. 12:1-31