

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 9-6-26
Christianity 103 – Message 9 Part 1
Damascus Road Revelation

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) We wrapped up Acts 8 with the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch.
 - a) Philip responded to the Spirit with immediate obedience.

b. Important takeaways from this story.

- 1) Be alert, attentive, available, and ready to respond in immediate obedience to the leading of the Spirit in this life the Lord has given you.
- 2) As you go, meet people where they are.
- 3) Point them to Jesus in the Word.
- 4) The Gospel is for the world because Jesus died for the world.
- 5) God is at work in ways we do not always see.
- 6) The Gospel is God's work that we get to participate in.

c. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) We come face to face with Saul of Tarsus.
 - a) He is an enemy of Jesus and yet a self-proclaimed servant of God.
 - b) His parents were Pharisees. Acts 23:6
 - c) At 13, Saul was trained by a rabbi named Gamaliel.
- 2) Who was responsible for the things Saul learned and believed early in his life?
 - a) His parents
 - b) What happens when parents ignore their responsibility?
 - c) What happens when parents do not know truth?
- 3) Did Saul get a taste of the Gospel in Acts 5:27-42?
 - a) If he was there, then he watched the apostles being beaten. Acts 5:40.
 - b) How might that have impacted him?
- 4) Some may have thought Saul was beyond the reach of the Gospel.
 - a) What about II Peter 3:9 –

2. The storm before the calm. Acts 9:1-9

a. Saul is still at work. Verse 1

- 1) "Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord..."
 - a) Saul is making violent threats of murder.
- 2) "...went to the high priest..."
 - a) Saul had a solution to this problem.

b. Verse 2 –

- 1) "desired" – to ask for oneself
- 2) "bound" – to bind, to fasten with chains
- 3) "letters" – official letters of authorization, legal documents
 - a) The high priest held jurisdiction over Jewish communities.

c. Why did Saul choose Damascus?

- 1) Damascus was a major trade city about 150 miles northeast of Jerusalem.
 - a) Large Jewish population
 - b) Why synagogues?
- 2) Saul's problem is not so foreign to people today.
 - a) Saul was well-read, had spent countless hours studying yet he was spiritually blind.
- 3) Concerning the Gospel:

- a) Saul was blinded by the tenets of the Law he had been taught.
- b) He was living and teaching a lie to people every day.
- c) Saul's gospel at this time was a works-based gospel.
- 4) Clarify his names:
 - a) Saul – his Hebrew name, meaning “asked for” or “prayed for.”
 - b) Paul – his Roman or Greek/Latin name, meaning “small or little.”
- 5) What did Saul/Paul learn?
 - a) Salvation is by grace through faith.
- 6) Paul wrote about this in Romans 9:30-10:13.
- 3. Saul/Paul now understands the truth of the Gospel.
 - a. Contrast:
 - 1) I want to draw a simple contrast between the gospel Saul taught and the gospel he later wrote about.
 - b. Works versus faith concerning salvation. Romans 9:30-10:13
 - 1) Verse 30 – The Gentiles obtained a righteousness by faith.
 - 2) Verse 31 – Israel did not succeed in fulfilling the Law.
 - 3) Verse 32 – They did not depend on faith, but on what they could do.
 - 4) Verse 33 – This confirms they stumbled over Jesus. They did not believe in Him.
- 4. Today's Take Away:
 - a. Is there anyone whom you are burdened for concerning their salvation?
 - b. Parenting – a privilege with influence that comes with great responsibility.
 - c. What is the Gospel according to you?