

Southside Baptist Church
Sunday Morning – 10-11-26
Christianity 103 – Message 9 Part 5
Damascus Road Revelation

1. Introduction:

a. Taking a look back:

- 1) Last week we dug into the truth of Saul being a “chosen vessel” set apart by God.
- 2) We looked at the truth of sanctification.
 - a) At salvation, God sets you apart and makes you holy.
 - b) Being set apart as a believer means you have a mission and new direction in which to walk.
- 3) Phil 2:12-13 –
 - a) “work out” – means to continue a work to its conclusion.
 - b) I Peter 1:15-16 –
- 4) To bring clarity to the day-to-day pursuit of holiness, we looked at II Cor. 6:17.
 - a) Being called to “come out from among them, and be ye separate.”
- 5) Living out this truth of being “separate” involves two things:
 - a) Separate – Separation from evil is seen in our behavior and choices.
 - b) Dedication – Our dedication to God is seen by what we say no to.

b. Taking a look ahead:

- 1) We were introduced to a faithful Jewish believer named Ananias.
- 2) God had given Ananias clear instructions. Verses 11-12
- 3) Ananias learns that Saul will be used of the Lord to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

2. Ananias goes in obedience. Acts 9:17-19

a. Verse 17 –

- 1) Ananias believed and obeyed what God had said.
 - a) Ananias called him, “Brother Saul.”

b. Verse 18 –

- 1) The first thing he did after receiving his sight was to be baptized.

c. Saul preaches Jesus Christ. Acts 9:20-22

1) Verse 20 –

- a) Can you imagine what went through the minds of those who knew Saul before this day?
- 2) Was he ready?
- 3) Many commentators believe that Saul went to Arabia sometime between verses 19-22.

a) Galatians 1:15-17 –

4) Verse 21 –

- a) What a great testimony.
- b) “all that heard him were amazed...”

5) Verse 22 –

- a) Saul continued to grow as a vessel being prepared for the Lord’s service.

6) Application:

- a) Do you see the step he took here? It’s called discipleship.

3. Saul escapes to Jerusalem. Acts 9:23-26

a. Verse 23 –

- 1) The hunter has become the hunted.
- 2) This was a big change in his message.
- 3) He was confounding the Jews in Damascus as he preached that Jesus is the Messiah.

b. Verse 24 –

- 1) Church, this was a real threat to Saul.
- c. Verse 25 –
 - 1) God provided wisdom through the disciples to help Saul.
4. Saul goes back to Jerusalem. Acts 9:26-31
 - a. Rejected again.
 - 1) Verse 26 –
 - 2) What do you think about their suspicions?
 - 3) Could they forgive him? Would they forgive him?
 - 4) Application –
 - a) It is always a tough situation as a believer when you feel that forgiving someone is beyond your ability.
 - b) Remember that forgiveness isn't about earning, deserving, repayment, or getting even. It is about grace. It is grace received and grace released.
 - c) Biblical forgiveness means releasing the debt by faith, canceling it, and choosing daily, if necessary, to not remember it against them anymore.
 - 5) They did not believe Saul to be a disciple.
 - b. Barnabas steps in.
 - 1) Verse 27 –
 - 2) We met Barnabas earlier in our study. Acts 4:36-37
 - 3) Barnabas brought Saul to the leaders and spoke on his behalf.
 - 4) Application –
 - a) Pride and fear are enemies of following Jesus.
 - 5) Verse 28 –
 - c. Saul confronted Stephen's accusers.
 - 1) Verse 29 –
 - a) Saul is continuing what Stephen started that day when Saul was watching him die.
 - 2) Verse 30 –
5. God is accomplishing His plan. Acts 9:31
 - a. Verse 31 –
 - b. The church is growing.
 - 1) The church at this time had rest.
 - 2) Notice how churches are described in this time of rest.
 - a) "and were edified" –
 - b) "walking in the fear of the Lord" –
 - c) "and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost" –
 - d) "were multiplied" –
6. Today's Takeaway:
 - a. Do you know what will happen to you when you breathe your last breath?
 - b. What kind of vessel/instrument are you choosing to be each day?
 - c. Have you been discipled? If so, are you still growing?
 - d. Is there someone you are struggling to forgive?