

One Anothering: 'Taking Hold'

Acts 9:20-30

The background of the slide features a warm, golden-brown color palette. In the lower half, there are dark silhouettes of several people standing in a circle, holding hands. The background behind them is a bright, glowing light source, possibly a window or a sunset, creating a strong backlight effect. The overall mood is one of unity and community.



Acts 9

20 and immediately he [began] to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 21 All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and [who] had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" 22 But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this [Jesus] is the Christ.



Acts 9

23 When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him, 24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death; 25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through [an opening in] the wall, lowering him in a large basket. 26 When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to



Acts 9

the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.²⁸ And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.²⁹ And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic [Jews;] but they were attempting to put him to death.³⁰ But when the brethren learned [of it,] they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

Ananias

- “certain disciple at Damascus”
 - Goes from fear to willing to “Brother Saul”
 - laid his hands on the hands-layer!
 - Saul gets healed! baptized! HS filled!
 - MY Chosen instrument...
 - BUT - Everyone is afraid of him!!!

When your past....

- Hears are “amazed”
 - who in Jerusalem destroyed (Gal 1:13,23)
 - purpose of bringing bound to Jerusalem
- Saul had a name!
 - his training and zeal - Stephen!

Saul's effects

- brought much pain and concern to Church
- Stephen brings a mighty message
- “ravaging the church”
- “persecutor and violent aggressor”
- What would we be thinking?
- they are “scattered” to preach - at last!

Saul's Ministry?

- Waiting? attending services? Apostles?
- “confounding the Jews” in Damascus!
- “many days” - plan to KILL HIM!
- “but his disciples”! (25) a call to all!
- another basket case! over a wall?
- Goes to Jerusalem - greeted? AFRAID!



Gal 1:

15 But when God, who had set me apart [even] from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased 16 to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with flesh and blood, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus. 18 Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days. 19 But I did not see any other of the apostles except James, the Lord's brother.

Barnabas

- Joseph of Cyprus - not one of the 12?!
- “son of consolation”
- The Acts-man - giver from 4:36
- “took hold of him” - seized him!
 - Did someone “grab you”, invest in you?
 - What would have happened...

Work of “taking hold”

- Barnabas spent time with Paul
- listened to his story, saw his life
- did not let fear keep him from truth
- ‘leads’ him to apostle and speaks for him
- recounts Saul’s words...

We know the story

- Saul is sent back to Tarsus - safety!?
- ~7 years of “quiet ministry”
- the end? Ch.11 Gentiles?
- Barnabas and Saul will meet again...
- what “enemy” is God forging you with?