

Energized for Mission - Not A Tame God

Acts 9:1-22

In his writings, the great defender of the Christian faith, C.S. Lewis makes the point that the One True God is not a “_____” God. Tame means brought under _____ control, or taken out of the wild and made useful, docile, and _____ to handle. A “tame God” is one we can put in a _____, like a dog or cat in their crate.

But the Bible repeatedly shows us that God refuses to be boxed in by any kind of _____. He is God. We are not. No one else is a match for his power and _____. The conversion of Saul may be one of the clearest examples.

This is really important as we engage in God's _____ as his witnesses. We need to be _____ not to present a tame God that easily slides into a person's life without disrupting anything. We need to ask ourselves if we are trying to keep God tame in our _____ lives. How can we present the true God if we only have a God of our own making?

Saul (Paul) is pretty sure of himself and his relationship with God. He likely believes he is one of God's _____. Maybe even that he's getting everything _____ and serving God better and more faithfully than everyone else. He is on his way to put a stop to those who thought God could have been at work in Jesus.

Then, BAM! Everything _____. Jesus shows up and stops him in his tracks. Turns out the guy thinking he had God figured out was actively _____ Him! Saul falls to the ground, hears a voice, and loses his _____. This man with all kinds of authority and influence must now be led by the hand in the _____.

If God agrees with you about everything going on in your life, you might have a tame God, not the _____ One.

Then the Lord reaches out to Ananias and asks him to visit and pray with a guy that came to capture [and kill?] him. He wants him to reach out to and LOVE his _____. That's not a tame God. Even if we are “good,” we aren't allowed to avoid those we believe are “bad.” God can reach anyone, even the least likely convert.

The scales fall and Saul is _____. He immediately begins to do the opposite of what he planned. To everyone's _____, he proclaims that Jesus is indeed the Son of God. As he does, eventually the _____ becomes the _____. (Acts 9:23-30)

If we're honest with ourselves, the message of Jesus is a pretty _____ sell. It shatters all human expectations. God sends his Son into a _____ world of sin and death. He asks him to do all kinds of stuff. He even asks him to die on our behalf. But he can't be kept in a _____ anymore than he can be kept in a box. He does not stay dead, but rises again, _____ over sin, Satan, and death.

This is the God we are here to worship and celebrate. This is the God that we say is Lord over our lives.

How have you tried to “tame” God or put him in a box?

How have you tried to present a “tame” God to others in your witnessing?

Where is the Holy Spirit asking you to stop limiting what God wants to do in your life?

What are you going to DO in response to what Christ has already DONE?