



STARTING IN JERUSALEM

LESSON 7

JoLynn Gower

Fall 2020

217-493-6151

jgower@guardingthetruth.org

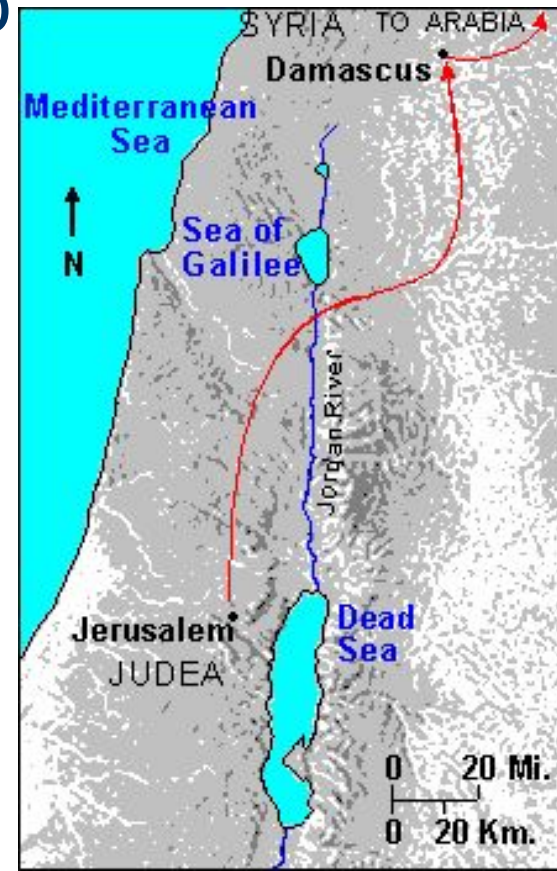


VERSE FOR THE JOURNEY

- **Acts 1:7-9** He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth." And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.
 - **AUTHORITY: *EXOUSIA*: the right to act**
 1. given by someone to someone
 2. works within certain specified rules
 3. has established parameters (domain)
 - **POWER: *DUNAMIS*: the ability to act**
- AUTHORITY AND POWER WORK TOGETHER

PAUL'S ATTITUDE

- Acts 9:1-2 Now Saul, still **breathing threats and murder** against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.
- Damascus wasn't under Romans Ruled by Aretas IV, Nabatean
- **Extradition??**
- On the way: a light; a voice!
- Others heard the voice
- Saul was blinded by the light



THE RESULT

- Acts 9:4-9...and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.
- **What was Paul thinking for these three days?**
- Acts 9:10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

THE COST OF OBEDIENCE

- Acts 9:11-14 And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight." **But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."**
- Acts 9:15-16 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."
- **God had chosen Paul; He had no less chosen Ananias**

THE POWER OF THE CALL

- 1 Corinthians 1:26 For consider your calling, brethren...
- Calling: *klesis* from *kaleo*: an invitation
- Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints...
- Ephesians 4:1 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...
- 2 Thessalonians 1:11 To this end also we pray for you always, that our God will count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power...
- 2 Timothy 1:9...who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity...

THE RESULT OF OBEDIENCE

- Saul's blindness was reversed
- Saul was baptized
- Acts 9:19-22... and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." 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?" 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...



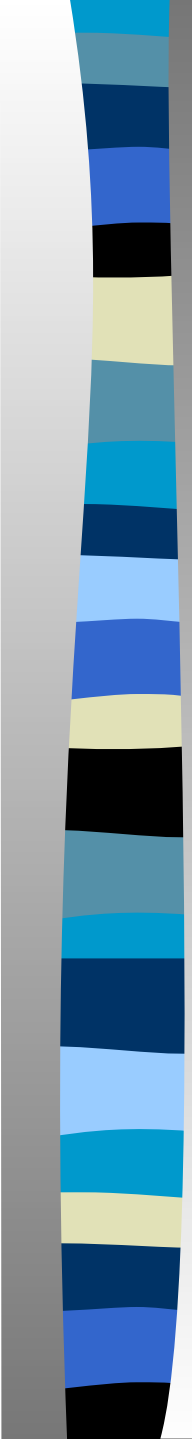
SIN HAS CONSEQUENCES

- Known sin requires repentance (1 John 1:9)
- Acts 9:26 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.
- Sometimes we suffer because of our own sin, even if confessed
- Sometimes our suffering is because of other people's sins
- Sometimes our suffering is because we live in a fallen world
- Barnabas believed Paul and the Jerusalem believers then deemed him credible

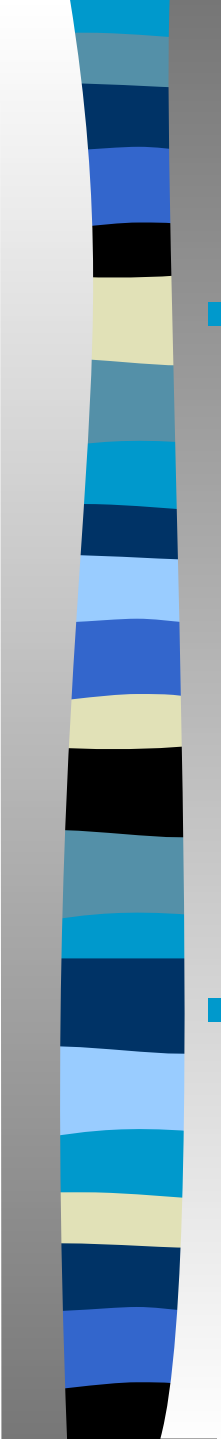
ANOTHER DEATH ATTEMPT

- Acts 9:29-30 And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic Jews; but they were attempting to put him to death. But when the brethren learned of it, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.
- Acts 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.
- Why the persecution might have momentarily stopped is not stated

APPLICATION

- 
- Galatians 4:8-9 However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods. But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?
 - Galatians 4:16 So have I become your enemy by telling you the truth?
 - Galatians 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

APPLICATION

- 
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, and we are ready to punish all disobedience, whenever your obedience is complete.
 - 1 Timothy 6:20-21 O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"— which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

THE MINISTRY OF PETER

■ Acts 9:33-35 There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed." Immediately he got up. And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

■ Peter also healed Dorcas—Tabitha in Joppa: Acts 9:40 But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

■ Acts 9:42-43 It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. And Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner named Simon

