



Acts 1-11 Sermon Series
To Be Used: Session 10: Converted
Potential Sermon Title: The Mission of God is
Accomplished with Converted Messengers
Passage: Acts 9:3-9,15-20

Connection to Passage

While traveling to Damascus to persecute Christians, Saul encountered the Risen Christ and was changed forever. Saul's experience and response to the Risen Christ became a powerful catalyst in launching his ministry. His experience with Christ also became a powerful tool in his ministry.

Introduction/Opening

You never know whom God will use to accomplish His mission. But the one thing you can know is that whomever God chooses to use, he or she will never be the same after encountering the Risen Christ. Our experience in salvation is a powerful confirmation of God's power not only for conversion but also for mission.

Outline

1. Messengers Meet Jesus (9:3-6)
 - a. Note that Jesus' reference to Saul's "persecuting Me" shows the close identity of Jesus with His followers. To persecute Christians is equated to persecuting Christ. When we face opposition to our faith, we can rest assured that we find an Advocate in the Founder of our faith.
 - b. Without the resurrection, Christianity falls. Saul's conversion shows us that without a direct experience with Jesus, he could not have come to appreciate why this was a key part of the Christian message. When we share the gospel, we also point to the Risen Christ. Therefore, those with whom we share must come to terms with the resurrected Christ. He is alive and is still at work today.
2. Messengers Experience Jesus (9:7-9)
 - a. While Paul's companions did not see Christ themselves, they did see a brilliant light and heard the sounds. Conversion, while including subjective experience, is also an objective event that is not a matter of imagination. The truth accompanied by personal experience is a powerful testimony to the salvation event.
 - b. Saul's blindness and his fasting were results of the intensity of his encounter with Christ and produced a time of life-changing reflection. Any encounter with Christ is a powerful experience that prompts us to intense personal reflection and life examination.

3. Messengers Respond to Jesus (9:15-20)

- a. Ananias's laying his hands on Saul was a physical symbol of the spiritual power of the Holy Spirit healing Saul from his blindness, confirming his conversion. The Spirit also confirms the change in the hearts of converts as their spiritual eyes are opened to see Christ in a new way.
- b. The physical event of his healing from physical blindness was also a symbol that Saul's spiritual blindness had been overcome and that he could now see and understand the truth. In response to this, Saul made an immediate public declaration of his faith in Jesus through baptism. The inward change brought by the Holy Spirit is so life-changing that it must be publically declared!

Conclusion

Paul's conversion was supernatural and changed him immediately. God still supernaturally changes men and women from all types of backgrounds. Despite their history, the experience of Christ will change their future. Our testimony of meeting Christ is a powerful tool for introducing Christ to others.

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