

From Seeing to Blind to Seeing

Acts 9:1-19

October 20, 2019

God chooses two very different people to be part of His plan to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth (1:8).

1. God's choice of a dangerous **enemy** (1 – 9)
 - a. The Lord appears to Saul
"a light from heaven" **glory**, at 12-noon (26:13)
"he fell to the ground" brought **low**
A voice; a sound (see also John 12:28-9)
Question, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"
 - b. Saul asks in respectful awe, "**Who** are you, Lord?"
 - c. Question answered
"I am Jesus" very much **alive**, risen and exalted
"whom you are persecuting" This is **personal**
Jesus' **oneness** with a persecuted church
 - d. Saul receives instructions; no longer in **charge**
"although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing" (vs.8)
For **3** days, he's blind, led around, not eating/drinking
2. God's choice of a **devoted** disciple (10 – 16)
 - a. The Lord appears in a vision, "Ananias!" (see 22:12)
 - b. He responds "Here I am, Lord." (Gen. 22; 1 Sam. 3)
 - c. The Lord says "**Go**," and gives detailed instructions
Saul is praying and in a vision he sees getting his sight!
 - d. Ananias tells the Lord 😊 what Saul has been doing
 - e. The Lord says "**Go**!" and tells him Saul's new calling
"This man [Saul] is my chosen **instrument**
to carry my name . . . and to suffer for my name."
3. God brings two men together to spread the gospel (17 – 19)
 - a. *Hands on* = healing and accepting "**Brother** Saul"
 - b. A., I'm here **because** the Lord Jesus sent me
 - c. S. sees, "he rose and was baptized," eats, gets stronger

Life Group Homework

1. There is an African proverb, "To be called is to be sent."
agree/disagree
Everyone that God calls to follow Jesus is sent to do something.
2. Saul was specifically called to follow Jesus and sent to others. Nowadays, everyone whom God calls to follow Jesus is sent to share the good news with others. Are you sure?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
not very					pretty sure		absolutely, no doubt		
3. READ Acts 26:9 – 18. In vs. 17-18, what was Paul sent to do and what life change would result in people who are saved?
open their _____
turn from _____ to _____
from the power of _____ to _____
so that they may receive _____ of sins
and a place among those sanctified by _____
4. READ Luke 4:16-20. List similarities that you find between what Jesus was sent to do and what Paul was sent to do.
5. What person(s) has God already placed in your life who needs to have their eyes opened to the good news of forgiveness?

(Saul needed Ananias to come and confirm the work God had already done in his life. God is at work already in your family and friends lives. Maybe you just need to pray and ask them, "What has God been saying to you lately?")