

Sermon Series Title: "Church Beginnings"

Sermon Series Summary: From now until around Easter, we will be in the book of Acts, covering chapters 1-12. After the Ascension of Jesus Christ, we see the NT church being born by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through this series, we see the church being built, the kingdom going forth, and the gospel being proclaimed.

"We are in our "Church Beginnings" sermon series, and through this series, we're going to see that we need to know where we come from to know who we are now and to know who we will become in the future."

Call: 1 Samuel 2:4

Text: Acts 9:19b-31

Title: "The Start of Paul's Ministry"

Next Week's Call: 1 Samuel 2:7

Next Week's Text: Acts 9:32-43

Next Week's Title: "The Healing through Peter"

Future Calls: 1 Samuel 2:17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23-25, 26-27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 40-43, 47, 50-51

Future Titles: "Cornelius' Prayer" (Acts 10:1-8, 30-33); "Peter's Vision" (Acts 10:9-29); "Cornelius' Salvation" (Acts 10:34-48); "Peter's Report" (Acts 11:1-18); "The First Gentile Church" (Acts 11:19-30); "The First Apostolic Martyr" (Acts 12:1-5); "Peter's Rescue" (Acts 12:6-19); "Herod's Death" (Acts 12:20-25)

Fallen Condition Focus: We need to be prepared for God's purposes through hardship.

Christ redeeming FCF: Jesus is the One who first was prepared and waited on the Lord, to be the Savior and Intercessor for us.

Proposition: "Proclaim the gospel and wait on the Lord as you trust in Christ as your Savior."

Summary: As we go back into the book of Acts, we start where we left off, the conversion of Saul. After he encounters Christ, believes, and is baptized, he proclaims the gospel immediately. Then, we see that God prepares him for ministry after many years. Lastly, in

our passage, we see Barnabas' intercession for Saul and God working in and through the church.

Reflective Questions:

1. What does our passage teach us about sharing the message of Christ with others?
2. What does our passage teach us about God's timing and preparation?
3. How do we see Christ in our passage?

I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

II. The Proclamation (vv. 19b-22)

- A. In the previous passage, we looked at the conversion of Saul. He encountered Christ, and the Lord gave him sight both physically and spiritually.
- B. After he is strengthened and spends some time with his disciples, he immediately starts to proclaim Christ.
 1. This is the organic response to salvation. There needs to be some type of confession. Confirmation/Baptism/Membership are all based on confession. Babies that are born should cry.
 2. He is new to the Christian faith. He doesn't have a robust theology, but he proclaims. This shows us that we don't need to be experts to evangelize; don't need to be pastors to proclaim. What we know is enough since what we know is what saved us.
 3. "Jesus is the Son of God." -in line with Israel in the OT; ultimate Israelite, ultimate Adam, God's son, and Messiah; he knew the OT
- C. Amazed- ecstatic; testimony
 1. He came to Damascus with the high priests' blessing to oppress those who follow Christ. Now, he has the Most High Priests' blessing in his salvation, and He is calling all to follow Christ.

III. The Preparation (vv. 23-25)

- A. After many days (3 years- Gal 1:18) in Arabia, he has to learn and be prepared. That time is used to humble oneself and to learn about Christ.
 1. In line with Moses and Jesus (3 years for ministry)
 2. 1 Timothy 3:6- qualification of Elder- not be a recent convert

- B. Jews plot to kill him, watching the gates to kill him. But his disciples sneak him out of Damascus.
 - 1. It seemed like his ministry was going to do well- his testimony first left people amazed. 3000 people came to Christ during the Pentecost.
 - 2. But instead he is met with opposition. Ironic that he came to Damascus to kill but now he is being killed.
 - 3. He is lowered in a basket, like unwanted goods.
- IV. The Intercession (vv. 26-30)
 - A. When he arrives in Jerusalem, Saul wants to join the apostles, but they do not believe him and are afraid of him.
 - 1. Spiritual high; possible hatred for previous persecution
 - B. Barnabas takes him and brings him to the apostles. He intercedes on behalf of Saul, and Saul shares his story.
 - 1. Can we be humble, loving, and selfless enough to be in relationship with and intercede on behalf of others?
 - C. Saul disputes against the Hellenists with more opposition. The disciples bring him down to Caesarea and send him to Tarsus, his hometown.
 - 1. Galatians 1:21-24 confirms this travel (Cilicia), and he confesses that he is unknown in person to the churches in Judea.
 - 2. We don't hear from him for years until Acts 11.
 - D. After this, he preferred the name "Paul" (meaning small) rather than "Saul" (Benjaminite after King Saul).
 - E. There are seasons when we feel like there is no purpose or fruit. Maybe we find our circumstances to be the exact opposite of what they were before.
- V. The Intervention (v. 31)
 - A. The church has peace. Maybe because of the absence of Saul? Maybe just a period of grace from God?
 - B. More importantly, the church is built up (numerically, spiritually), and they walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. They multiply.
 - C. God intervenes in this last verse, but He has been intervening the whole time. He is in control (Stephen's martyrdom- hope in suffering, Saul's salvation and preparation for ministry).
 - D. We can wait on and trust in the Lord, since Christ is the first one to wait on, be prepared, and trust in the Lord to save us.
 - E. He was the first intercessor for us to be in relationship with Him, and that intercession is found upon His blood.