

January 25, 2009

Acts 9:1-19

When Jesus Comes Crashing In

The Call of Christ into His Mission:

The Reorientation of Vocation

This is not a story of justice.
It is a story
of re-orientation;
of redemption;
of grace.

**The best defense is a
good offense.**

If you have an impulse to
defend God - choose to be
his witness instead.
Demonstrate what it means
to be love; to be healed; to
experience grace.

Your Story

At the beginning of the worship service John said he had good news for us – “You are not in control.” How did you (or do you) react to this statement?

God’s Story

To get some background on Paul and the development of the persecution:

Read Acts 5:17-20, 29, 33-39

Gamaliel was Saul’s teacher (Acts 22:3). Notice the instructions he gives.

Read Acts 7:59 – 8:3

How does Saul respond to Gamaliel’s teaching? Why do you think he responds this way? How would you describe Saul?

Read Acts 9:1-19

Put yourself in the place of one of the men traveling with Saul. Describe what you think these men felt and thought as they experienced what happened in verses 3-9.

What do you think Saul felt during this confrontation by Jesus?

What do you think Saul felt and thought about during those three days of blindness? Why do you think he didn’t eat or drink anything?

How would you describe Ananias? If you were in his place how you would have reacted? Why do you think God involves Ananias in this story?

You & Jesus in The Story Together

Think honestly about how you are like each of the main characters in this story.

How are you like Saul?

In what ways might you be an enemy of Jesus?

In what ways are you or have you been a gate keeper for God?

Have you ever been passionate about something to the point of being hurtful to someone? In what ways are you a zealot/fanatic? What religious practice or idea do you feel protective toward? How do you know when your zeal/passion is misplaced? In what ways do you keep people from encountering Jesus?

How are you like Ananias?

Is Jesus calling you to love someone you see as an enemy to Him?

Is Jesus asking you to pray for someone to be healed of their blindness?

Is there someone in our church who you find to be fanatical? Do you have a co-worker who proclaims to be an atheist? Is there a member of your family living in a spiritual darkness or blindness? What cues can you take from how Ananias responds to God’s call?

Pray Together!

Let your prayers be guided by what came up in your discussion.