

CP - 10/23/22

Acts 9:26–31 - Saul: Rejected, Accepted, Sent Off

Introduction:

This passage marks the end of the portion of Acts that began with the death of Stephen, Philip's ministry in Samaria, and the conversion/commissioning of Saul.

- * This section ends with another summary statement as a marker.
- * The stage is now set for the next phase of the Church taking the gospel to the Gentiles.
- * We won't see Saul again until Acts 11:25 (many years later, possibly 10).

Plan - for 26–30, make application and then return back to v. 31

Sermon Outline:

1. Saul attempts to join the apostles (25)
 - "attempts" - imperfect tense = repeated tempts
 - They were afraid and did not believe him.
2. Barnabas advocates for Saul (27)
 - "Son of Encouragement" (Acts 4:31)
 - Took Saul (spent time with him, heard him, and trusted him)
 - Brought Saul (time, risk, humility)
 - Declared Saul's conversion and confession (he preached Jesus boldly)
3. Saul preaches with boldness (28-29)
 - 2 verses in a row mention his boldness
 - We can't chalk his boldness up to his character
 - Eph 6 / Col 4 - asked the church to pray for him to be bold
 - Boldness is a gift of God that is rooted in 4 things:
 1. Conversion - Saul had met the Lord and been made new.
 2. Commission - Saul had been called by the Lord to preach.
 3. Communion - Indwelt and Empowered
 4. Confident - God couldn't be defeated.
4. Saul is sent home (30)
 - Galatians 1:18 - He was only there for 15 days
 - Sent back to Tarsus (Cilicia)
 - We don't hear from him until Acts 11:25 when Barnabas finds him (around 10 years)
 - What did he do for that time?
 - Acts 15:22–23; 41 (made converts and planted churches)
 - He couldn't be stopped

Take Home:

1. A faithful witness is Christ-centered.
2. A faithful witness is empowered.
3. A faithful witness is bold.
4. A faithful witness will suffer.
5. How can you be a Barnabas this week?

Summary verse 31: (Biblical Church Growth Strategy)

*The church had peace

*The church was being built up (2:42) (teaching, praying, fellowship, Lord's Supper)

*Marks of being built up:

*The church walked: (Bee Gees, "you can tell by the way I use my walk")

1. In the fear of the Lord (Lordship)

2. The comfort of the Holy Spirit (filled by the Spirit)

*The church multiplied

Application:

1. When God is at work in a church, the people walk in reverence of the Lord and the resources of the Spirit.
2. There is an inseparable link between edification and multiplication.
 - You don't focus on building a church; you focus on building a disciple.
3. When the church grows deep, it will naturally grow wide.
4. Don't forsake the commitment we've made to one another.

Small Group Questions:

1. What from the Bible passage and sermon spoke to you?
2. Why was it so hard for the apostles to accept Saul? Why are we usually skeptical at first and have to be convinced?
3. Why is Barnabas an example worth following? Do you have a "Barnabas" in your life? How can you be a "Barnabas" for someone else?
4. How could Saul preach with such boldness? What was the source of his boldness? (see point 3). How can you speak for boldly in your life? What prevents you from being bold about preaching Jesus?
5. What does it mean that the church was being built up? What does it mean to walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Spirit? How are these the marks that the church was being built up? How does this result in multiplication?