
I. THE HURDLE

In preparing for this weeks teaching - it came to my attention that we have a rather large hurdle which hinders our ability to fully embrace and believe the teachings of Scripture.

THE HURDLE: We live in a black and white world - we are trying to fit God into our black and white understanding of life. When God and life with God is not black & white but it is full color.

You and I are trying to get God to fit into our story - Where God is actually inviting us into His story.

However the danger of this hurdle we have been talking about: When life is all about us. We fall into this way of thinking that everything is black And white - it is a cause and effect world

It becomes life based on our understanding, our strength, our abilities. When life is not going as we hoped or planned, when we tried to change our situations but nothing happened.

We begin thinking: this is the way that it has always been, this is how it is always going to be, nothing is going to change it is just the way it is.

We get stuck seeing the world through the natural - what we can make sense of with our eyes. As believers we struggle because we desperately want help and intervention from God we read about it in the Bible so mentally we know God is able but this hurdle Im talking about is the fact that we are not sure how, when, if God will intervene in our lives. Im not sure HE will do that for me.

Main Idea: God is ALWAYS working - Kingdom of God Is Always Advancing.

II. LEAST LAST LOST

The least likely, the last of society and the lost those who are furthest from God.

The least - where was Philip preaching in Samaria - people who the Jews traditionally considered less than.

The last: A Eunuch - traditionally not welcoming into temple worship - because of his level in society and position he would be considered the Last to hear.

The Lost: Today in Acts 9 we see Saul the man who seems most lost in his sin - furthest from God.

Luke presents these are the first breakouts of the gospel for us - and I believe it is to break us from this black and white mold - help us to understand God is always working - the Kingdom of God is always advancing. In an instant God shows up and radically saves lives.

III. ACTS 9:1-31

A. Verses 1-9

- Saul - persuaded that the church is a detriment to the world - passionately doing what he can to eradicate it from the world.
- Damascus - 150 miles north - on his way to persecute the WAY
- Jesus intervenes: (Who is Saul persecuting? Christ cares about what you are walking through)

B. Verses 10-19a

- Ananias: obedience - communion with God (fear- are you sure - I trust you God)
- Chosen instrument: You have to trust me- He is perfectly positioned to take this gospel to the ends of the earth. God's Plan not ours! (God way you are using Peter seems to be working)
- Go from trying to stop the spread of the good news among the Jews to the very man who will carry the gospel to the gentiles and to the world.
- Power of obedience: Ananias - Saul (repentance and baptism) (Call was not to have perfectly crafted words to lead them to salvation - Show up I am up to something) OBEY
- Want to talk about an intervention - IN AN INSTANT HIS LIFE COMPLETELY CHANGED - are you even open to the move of God in your life?

C. VERSE 19b-31

-Saul's ministry: Just because God intervene in your life doesn't mean everything is all good. Now the persecutor is being persecuted. Apostles are doubting he is being for real.

- Taking His experience with Jesus and seeing how all of scripture points to Him as the messiah - the saving one - just as zealous as he was to stop the church he is even more so to spread the message of the good news.
- Saul's passion, knowledge of Scripture, confrontational nature, heart for people to know God
- Now the church experienced PEACE and Flourishes outside of Jerusalem.
- Walked in the fear of the Lord and in the Peace/comfort from the Holy Spirit. Lived life WITH God.

IV. SO WHAT?!

1. God's Kingdom is Advancing - Join Him on His Mission

God is always at work - God's Kingdom is always Advancing. He is not limited to work with what makes sense - He is way bigger than that - we take comfort because His plans are way Higher than our plans and His ways are way better than our ways.

So you and I can take comfort in the fact that - our God is active and Loves to intervene.

Call to follow Jesus is an invitation to Join Him on Mission to take the gospel to the ends of the earth. We have no idea who He is working on, we have no idea what God is up to but man we have faith and expectation that God can show up and redeem in an instant.

2. You are perfectly positioned to be used of God.

- Chosen Instrument , Ananias , Barnabas

Your life, your past, your struggles, your fears, worries. Your background - life experiences.

God has perfectly positioned you right now - as you are - not some future version of you when you get serious about your faith - right now has perfectly positioned you to be a force for the Kingdom of God.

Way you understand how you are perfectly positioned to join God on His mission - is by pressing in, spending time with God, getting alone, learning how to pray, reading His word, being with Jesus.

As you focus on Being with Jesus you begin to see life in full color, you begin to have faith and expectation that God Is at work and is advancing His kingdom so you begin to say Where are you sending me today? How can you use me today?