



Ends of the Earth

Acts 9:1-19

A. The Depth of God's Grace

1. God's grace was under attack.

"Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples." Acts 9:1a-b (NIV)

2. God's grace was being threatened.

"He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem." Acts 1c-2 (NIV)

3. Despite this, God's grace reached down.

"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from Heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?'" Acts 9:3-4 (NIV)

"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 (NIV)

B. The Power of Divine Intervention

1. The Divine was identified as Christ.

"'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, Whom you are persecuting,' He replied." Acts 9:5 (NIV)

2. The Divine gave instructions.

"'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'" Acts 9:6 (NIV)

3. The Divine was personal and physical.

"The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. "Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand to Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything."'" Acts 9:7-9 (NIV)

C. The Preparation of Obedience

1. Ananias was more than a minor player.

"In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, 'Ananias!' 'Yes, Lord,' he answered. The Lord told him, 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.'" Acts 9:10-12 (NIV)

2. Ananias' doubt was trumped by God's plan.

"'Lord,' Ananias answered, 'I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to Your holy people in Jerusalem. And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name.' But the Lord said to Ananias, 'Go! This man is My chosen instrument to proclaim My name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for My name.'" Acts 9:13-16 (NIV)

3. Saul needed the outreach of a faithful disciple.

"Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, Who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength." Acts 9:17-19a (NIV)

4. Our world needs the outreach of faithful disciples.

"He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation.'" Mark 16:15 (NIV)

Bottom Line:

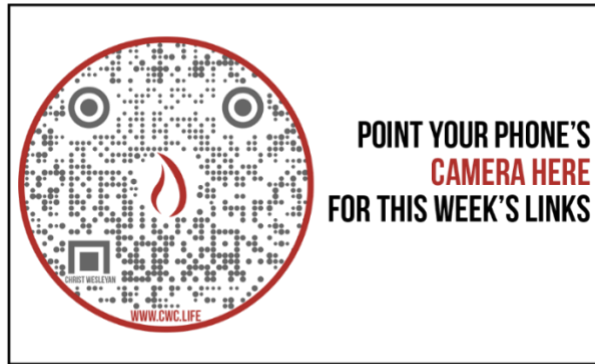
God reached down so that we can reach out.

To begin a relationship with Jesus...

Text: "Jesus" to 570-273-0088

Notetakers are History Makers

Next Sunday: “impACTS”
Week 4: Paul’s First Missionary Journey
Milton Campus: Pastor Branden Mestach
Sunbury Campus: Pastor Billy Robel



Giving & Attendance Update

Giving last Sunday: 64% of goal
Giving year to date: 83.9% of goal
Attendance Last Weekend: 1,901
Salvations to date: 44 | Baptisms to date: 35

Upcoming Happenings:

September 4 – CWC Youth begins 6:30p
September 6-7 – Auditions for “An Enchanted Evening.”
September 8 – Classics Fall Kickoff Dinner – 12:30p
September 11 – Mid-Week Groups/Kidz – 6:30p