

Jesus & You, Jesus and Saul & Ananias:

Sharing the gospel

08/16/2020 Sermon

1. Read Acts 7:54 – Acts 8:4

- a. What is your first impression of Saul here?
- b. Does this seem like an “ideal” candidate for conversion?
- c. In Acts 8:4, those who were scattered preached wherever they went, not just leaders, but all the disciples.

2. Read Acts 9:1-9

- a. Jesus turned an enemy into an advocate. Is there anyone that you think is too far gone to be reached by the gospel? What does Saul’s conversion tell you about the power of God?
- b. When did you first come to faith? What was your Damascus road experience? How did God get your attention?

3. Read Acts 9:10-19

- a. Saul’s conversion consisted of faith (v. 5), repentance (v.9-11), and baptism (v. 18). We see from this account and the account in Acts 22 that Saul received the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17) and the forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16) after Ananias came and baptized him. When was your baptism? How did you feel after receiving salvation?
- b. Who was your Ananias? Who studied the Bible with you and/or baptized you? When’s the last time you thanked God for them? When’s the last time you thanked them for reaching out and making you a disciple of Jesus?

4. Read Acts 9:19-22

- a. Saul immediately began proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God. After being made a disciple, he immediately started making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20). You, like Saul, were once lost and God sent a disciple, an “Ananias” into your life to share the gospel with you. Who is God sending you to now? Whose life has God placed you in to share the good news with them and help them to become a Christian?
- b. Verse 20 says Saul was proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God, and verse 22 says that Saul was proving (from the Scriptures) that Jesus is the Messiah. We are to preach Jesus! Don’t preach baptism, preach Jesus! (Yes, we teach people that baptism is an element of conversion, but make Jesus the focus of your preaching). Don’t preach Cornerstone/church, preach Jesus! (Yes, we teach people the importance of fellowship and the congregation and one another relationships, but don’t focus on “how great Cornerstone is”, focus on how amazing Jesus is). If

you need direction on what to teach people, use the study series we have put together for you:
<https://www.cornerstoneduluth.org/core-studies/>

c. Who can you share your faith with today? Is there a phone call you could make to someone and talk about Jesus? What neighbor or co-worker or friend or family member needs to hear the good news about Jesus? Pray for the Holy Spirit to give you the words, and then just open your mouth and tell about the goodness of Jesus.