

When You Are Surrounded by God's People

Acts 9:19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. 21 All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" 22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ. 23 After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him, 24 but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. 25 But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall. 26 When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. 27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. 28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

Lessons We Will Learn in this Series:

1. The love of God can _____ anyone's _____!
2. One person can make a great _____ on our world; particularly when he or she _____ God's plan for their lives.

The Ironies of this Story

1. The man who went to Damascus to _____ Christians _____ a Christian.
2. The man who went to _____, was marked to be _____.
3. The man who _____ the Name, _____ the Name.
4. The disciples, who were afraid of _____, were afraid of this _____.
5. The man with _____ to go to Damascus had to _____ of Damascus through a hole in the wall.

What Did Saul Preach?

He preached "_____." (Remember that he had been trained his whole life in Judaism)

He preached that Jesus is the _____ of _____.

Acts 9:20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

He preached that Jesus is the _____.
Acts 9:22 Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Christ.

He preached in the _____ of the _____.
Acts 9:28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

The Importance of Godly Relationships to Saul

1. As a new believer in Jesus Christ, he enjoyed the _____ of God's _____.
Acts 9:19 . . .Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus.
Acts 2:42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

2. Before he could begin ministry he was _____ in the _____ of God's Word.
Acts 9:23 After many days had gone by, the Jews conspired to kill him,
Gal. 1:15 But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. 18 Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days.
Gal. 1:12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

3. As a solid believer he found a _____ in Barnabas who also helped him build a _____ with the Apostles.
Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus.
4. As a _____ Christian, he became a _____ of the church.
Acts 9:28 So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

What Do We Learn?

1. _____ believer needs _____ relationships to continue to _____ in the faith. (No man is an island!)
2. The _____ of relationships you need are the following:
 - Good _____
 - A _____ / _____
 - A _____ /true friend
 - The _____ (the _____ of believers)