It’s Not the Christian Life if You Don’t SHARE January 21, 2024

*Acts 9:19-31 Series: The Christian Life Is a 3-Legged Stool*

You don’t have to be a theologian or seminary graduate to share your faith. You just need to be willing to share what God has done for you. – Billy Graham

Intro: Interrupted part-way through the race

1. Share even when people reject you
2. Why didn’t he just keep to himself?

v. 19 *For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus.*

v. 20 *immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues*

v. 21 *all who heard him were amazed*

v. 21 *Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?*

v. 23 *When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him …*

1. If you’ve truly received it, give it away

John 7:38 *Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, “Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”*

2 Corinthians 8:9 *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.*

Acts 4:29 *Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness …*

* What excuses could Saul have given for not going to the synagogues to teach about Jesus?
* What excuses keep you from sharing your faith?
* If, according to John 7:38, the living water is designed to flow “out of [our] heart” what happens if we bottle it in?
1. Share even when Christians disappoint you
2. Why didn’t he just pack it in?

v. 26 *And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple.*

v. 27 *But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord …*

v. 28 *So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord.*

1. If you’ve truly been forgiven, forgive others

Ephesians 4:32 *Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

* Why might Saul have had big expectations about visiting the Jerusalem church? How would he have felt in v. 26?
* What are some ways that we can try to be a Barnabas to other Christians who feel excluded and dismissed?
* How does Christ’s forgiveness motivate your forgiveness? What can you do to nurture this?
1. Share because Jesus is the Son of God
2. Trusting Jesus as the Son of God changes everything

 v. 20 *he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”*

1. Son of God doesn’t just mean child of God

Luke 4:3 *The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”*

Luke 4:41 *And demons also came out of many, crying, “You are the Son of God!” But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.*

Romans 1:3-4 *concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord*

1. Israel’s most famous story of a son pointed to the Son

Genesis 22:2 *He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”*

John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

* What does it mean to call Jesus “the Son of God”?
* How does the resurrection “declare [Jesus] to be the Son of God”?
* What does the story of Abraham and Isaac teach you about Jesus?

Study ahead: In two weeks, we’ll study 1 Timothy 1:1-11.

Notes