



EASTMONT CHURCH

Refocus (10-12 minutes)

The conversion and ministry of Saul we are studying could be summarized as a man desiring to make much of Jesus. Take a few minutes to listen to the song that testifies a desires for the same:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DaF0bwaurX0>

Then, open your time in prayer allowing the words if this song as well as the conversion and ministry of Paul we're studying guide your words to the Lord. Confess sin if need be, affirm your desire that these words be true of your heart and life, ask specifically that this would be true of you in every area of life, and that in reviewing Paul's initial attempts to preach Jesus in Acts 9:20-31 your commitment to this reality would be renewed and deepened.

Remember (10-15 min)

On Sunday we studied Acts 9:20-31. Take time to read the passage again with the outline below guiding the reading. Read the passage according to the sections given below and discuss the questions within a section before moving on to reading and discussion the questions in the next section:

Saul's Apostolic Preaching In Damascus Leads to Persecution from the Jews (9:19-25)

What is the significance of the city of Damascus in that time? Perhaps google it.

Why did Paul preach in the synagogues of Damascus rather than somewhere else? (Hint: Acts 9:2)

Where in the OT do you think Saul went to confound the Jews and prove Jesus was the Christ?

What is the overall historical significance of the Jews response to Saul in Damascus?

Saul's Apostolic Preaching in Jerusalem Leads to Persecution from the Hellenists. (9:26-30)

Why would the disciples in Jerusalem react the way they do to Saul?

What is the significance of the Apostles in Jerusalem affirming Saul?

What is ironic about Saul's preaching and persecution by the Hellenist in Jerusalem? (Hint: 7:9,58)

Saul's Apostolic Preaching in General Leads to Peace and Multiplication of the Church (9:31)

With the conversion of Saul the massive persecution of The Church ended. How is God's wisdom and goodness displayed in the persecution of the church by Saul and then the multiplication of the church after it?

Resolve (20-25 min)

The initial attempts of Saul to preach Jesus in Damascus and Jerusalem teach us a few things about our personal ministry opportunities and efforts...

Jesus is typically rejected and can be hostile with Jewish audiences

To further reinforce this principle read Romans 11:7-10 and 11:25-28.

To balance this principle read Romans 10:14-17

What are practical steps we can take to be compassionate yet bold with the gospel before Jewish audiences? What step might you need to take?

The focus of our message in the world is Jesus, nothing else, no matter what the audience or time

Paul's early preaching ministry and entire ministry is demonstrated here and summarized in 1 Corinthians 1:18-25. Read those verses.

Why is it important that this be our message in the world today? How do you take the current messages and conversations and turn them to our gospel message?

Where do you need to grow so that you can turn cultural conversations to Jesus and the gospel?

Jesus uses times of persecution and peace to build His Church

Why is it important for us to see Jesus use both persecution and peace to advance His gospel and build His church?

How do we maintain contentment and faithfulness to Jesus in times of peace; and then in a time of persecution if it were to come?

Resolve (5-10 min)

Paul had to be resolute in his commitment to preach Jesus and Jesus only in his life. Take a few minutes to write out a prayer of resolve to Jesus expressing your desires, fears, and commitment to Him and His message of the gospel no matter what. Take that writing and place it in your Bible for future reference and reminder.