

The Bridge –
A Study In the Book of
Acts

Acts Nine
(Galatians 1:11-24)

Acts

- Luke-Acts a single account of the origins of Christians history
- Jesus, focus of the Gospels
- Holy Spirit, focus of Acts
 - Wait, pray, empowered
 - Church birthed
 - Jerusalem church unique & effective
 - Rise of Peter
 - Rise of Paul

When Your Enemy Becomes Your
Brother



Saul's Campaign of Repression

- Stephen's death (Acts 7)
- "The Persecutor"
 - Acts 9:1-2 "Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. 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."

Saul's Campaign of Repression

- "The Persecutor"
 - I Corinthians 15:9
 - Galatians 1:13 & 23
- Malignant growth needing drastic surgery
- Arrest, interrogation, imprisonment
- Under threat but the church would not back down
- Mission to Damascus



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usYISdW7YGs>

Saul's Supernatural Encounters

Acts 9:3-9 "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?" "Who are you Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. "Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what you must do." 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 into Damascus. For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

Saul's Supernatural Encounters

- Christ
- Ananias (Acts 9:10-16)
- Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17)

Saul's Solitude

- Acts 9:19 "several days"
- Galatians 1:11-24
 - "I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem"
- Solitude
- Calling
- Preaching (II Corinthians 11:32)
- Riots

Saul Becomes "Paul the Apostle"

- Acts 9:26 "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. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles....So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but they tried to kill him.

Saul Becomes "Paul the Apostle"

- When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace.
- Galatians 1:18-21
- Revelation "exalted Lord"
- Mission "to the gentile world"
- Apostolic ministry
- Peace

21st Century Christian Church

- Enemies can become brothers
 - Pray for those who persecute you
- Change can be both instant and a process ... let grace & patience abound
- When we are corrected by the Lord, we need to hear, receive & obey
- We have a mission too