

“Jerusalem Meets Rome and Finds Babylon: A Study in Church Purity”

Fall 2022-Spring 2023

October 19, 2022

Building the Missions Team – Acts 9, 11:19ff

I. Recruiting the Quarterback

A. Getting Paul to Stop playing for the other team – Ac 9:1-9

1. Not by Works of Righteousness – vs 1-2

a. Paul’s Background

i. still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord

ii. (*he*) went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus

- so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women

- he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

b. God’s choice not based on lifestyle choices - 1Co 6:9-11 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

c. Lifestyle choices are expected to change with salvation –

i. Ga 5:19-21 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

ii. Eph 5:3-6 But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

iii. 1Ti 1:8-11 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other

thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God which was committed to my trust.

2. Jesus's Confrontation of Paul – vs 3-9

a. He saw the light – vs 3

b. Correction in thinking – vs 4-6

i. Showing the offense - why are you persecuting Me? – vs 4

ii. Correction in the understanding the person of Christ – vs 5

- "Who are You, Lord?

- Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.

iii. Correction in the understanding one's position before Him – vs 6

- So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?"

- Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

- Obedience – vs 8-9

c. Not everyone gets it – vs 7

B. Preparing the Player for the Team's Playbook – vs 10-22

1. The people God uses to prepare the player for the game

a. Blessing from others is one way

b. Conflict with others is another way

2. Coach – Ananias

a. A servant of the Lord – vs 10

b. Clear direction – vs 11-12

i. "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying.

ii. "And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight."

c. Questions, but not questioning – vs 13-14

i. "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem.

ii. "And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

d. Clarification for the sake of the questions

i. "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

ii. "For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake."

3. Getting Paul Started

a. Ananias' Obedience -vs 17-18

i. that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

ii. he arose and was baptized.

b. The involvement of others – vs 19

- c. The next step – vs 20
 - i. he preached the Christ in the synagogues
 - ii. that He is the Son of God.
- d. The Recognition of change by others and Oneself
 - i. "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?"
 - ii. Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

C. The Team Protecting the Quarterback - vs 23-31

1. Suffering for Righteousness Sake – vs 23-24

- a. Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.
- b. But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him.

2. The Way of Escape – vs 25-28

- a. With the help of others -vs 25
- b. Going to Jerusalem – vs 26-28; Gal 1:17-18
 - i. Trying to Meet the Apostles – vs 26
 - ii. With a little help from Barnabas – vs 27
- c. Preaching in Jerusalem – vs 28

3. The next Conflict – vs 29-31

- a. And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus
 - i. and disputed against the Hellenists
 - ii. but they attempted to kill him.
- b. From Jerusalem to Tarsus -vs 30

II. Church Growth in Southern Israel – vs 31-43

A. The Healing of Aeneas in Lydda

- 1. Came to the saints – vs 32
- 2. Found Aeneas - vs 33
 - a. who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed.
 - b. Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately.

3. A witness for the Lost – vs 34

B. The Raising of Dorcas in Joppa– vs 36-43

- 1. Dorcas -a certain disciple
 - a. named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas.
 - b. This woman was full of good works
 - c. and charitable deeds which she did.
 - d. She died and they prepared her for burial – vs 37
- 2. Called for Peter – vs 38
 - a. and the disciples had heard that Peter was at Lydda, - about 12 miles away

- b. they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them.
 - 3. Peter at Joppa – vs 39-41
 - a. Arriving in Joppa – vs 39a
 - b. Testimony of the works of Dorcas – vs 39b
 - c. The healing – vs 40-41
 - 4. The Purpose of the miracle – vs 42-43
- III. Results of Chapter 8 Persecution – 11:19-30
- A. The Preaching of the Persecuted
- 1. Scattered to preach – vs 19
 - a. those who were scattered
 - b. traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch,
 - c. preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.
 - 2. Some people's standards are different – vs 20-21
 - a. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene
 - b. when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus.
 - c. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.
- B. Change with the Leadership's Approval – vs 22-26
- 1. Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem,
 - a. and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. - vs 22
 - b. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. – vs 24
 - 2. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. – vs 23
 - 3. Time to get Paul – vs 25-26
 - a. Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul.
 - b. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.
 - c. Ministry with Paul
 - i. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church
 - ii. and taught a great many people.
 - iii. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.
- C. The Body Ministering to the Body – vs 27-30
- 1. From Jerusalem to Antioch to Judea
 - a. And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch.
 - b. Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar.
 - 2. Then the disciples determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea.
 - a. each according to his ability,
 - b. This they also did,
 - c. and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.