

Life as an adventure with God

Part 2 Through Transitions

Acts 9:

Last study we looked at Paul encountering Jesus which resulted a sudden change in plan in his life. In his case from Persecuting Christians to Preaching Christ. You may have shared changes you have made in your own life.

Today we will look at the changes we make where we are in transition that takes place and lessons we can learn from them.

Share a significant transition you faced and what you learnt from it. (Transition includes moving homes, countries, school, University, jobs, changes in finances, family and retirement to name a few)

Read Galatians 1: 11-18

1. Soon after Saul's conversion he went to Arabia for about 3 years.

There are two possible reasons for this.

- a. Possibly for similar reasons as Elijah 1 Kings 19 vs3-9? Discuss
 - b. Positively the role Mount Sinai/Horeb had for Jews? What good things happened there?
 - c. Who, how and where can we draw strength, wisdom and guidance when going through the turmoil, and rethinking your future?
2. Paul fled to Jerusalem but once again what happened and where did he end up going this time? Acts 9: 28-30

Tarsus. A bustling cosmopolitan noble Roman city of about 100,000 where there was a strong Jewish quarter within it with synagogues.

It appears Saul stayed there for about 10 years, where little is known. He would have worked with his hands making goods from leather such as tents and awnings. He may have been ostracised by his family and the tightknit Jewish community for following Jesus. He may have lost opportunity of marrying a Jewish woman. Tradition has it, he lived in a cave.

- a. How do you think God was working in his life? How has God worked in your life through a difficult or transitional season?

- b. Knowing what we know of Paul how do you think Paul used this time of transition to prepare himself to serve and live for Christ?
 - c. Are you aware how over the years God has used your experience, training, and development for his purposes?
 - d. Share with your group how God has /is using you today because of your past.
3. Read Acts 11:24-25 Barnabus finds Saul and invites him back to the vibrant spiritual church family on mission that was growing and multiplying among both Jews and Gentiles in Antioch
- a. Why do you think he could now be used so effectively by the Lord?
 - b. Apart from spending time with the Lord and studying Scripture who helped in his discipling as Christian and for how long? Acts 11:24 and Galatians 1:25-26
 - c. Barnabus saw the potential in Saul, who invested in him by coming alongside him as an advocate, depositing wisdom and encouraging. Who is the Barnabas in your life?
 - d. Who are you being a Barnabus to?

Timeline

35 AD? Saul Conversion - Damascus Acts 9:1- 20

35-37 AD Saul - Arabia - Returns to Damascus Gal 1:17

37 AD Twice to protect Saul from being killed.

1. Sent from Damascus to Jerusalem. Acts 9:23-26

2. Sent Jerusalem to Tarsus Acts 9:27 30,

37-47AD, in Tarsus.

47 AD Barnabus invites Saul in Tarsus to travel to Antioch Acts 11:25

47 AD -48 Barnabus and Saul teach in Antioch Acts 11:26

48-49 AD Pauls first Missionary Journey Acts 13-15