

Acts 22:1-21 - Paul: A Missional Life

¹ *‘Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defence.’*

² *When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet.*

Then Paul said: ³ ‘I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. ⁴ I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, ⁵ as the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

⁶ *‘About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, “Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?”*

⁸ *“Who are you, Lord?” I asked.*

“I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁹ My companions saw the light, but they did not understand the voice of him who was speaking to me.

¹⁰ *“What shall I do, Lord?” I asked.*

“Get up,” the Lord said, “and go into Damascus. There you will be told all that you have been assigned to do.” ¹¹ My companions led me by the hand into Damascus, because the brilliance of the light had blinded me.

¹² *‘A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there. ¹³ He stood beside me and said, “Brother Saul, receive your sight!” And at that very moment I was able to see him.*

¹⁴ *‘Then he said: “The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. ¹⁵ You will be his witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptised and wash your sins away, calling on his name.”*

¹⁷ *‘When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw the Lord speaking to me. “Quick!” he said. “Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.”*

¹⁹ *“Lord,” I replied, “these people know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.”*

²¹ *‘Then the Lord said to me, “Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.”’*

The Purpose of Your Life

Primary Vocation: The Call to Christ & The Kingdom

To All People

This is persistent and eternal.

Particular Life Vocations:

Marriage, Parenting, Singleness, Friendship, Church
These are primarily Relational
These tend to be long term.

Missional Vocations:

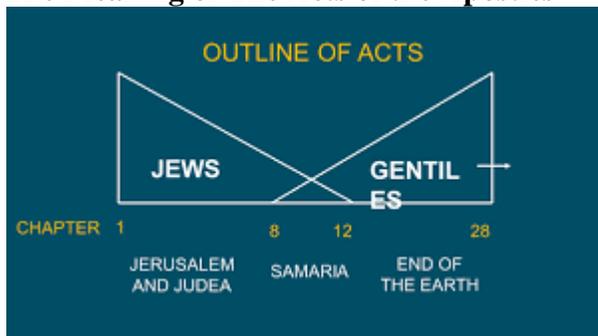
Career, Work

These are about
stewarding of gifts in a manner that
engage the world and
further the Kingdom.
These can be seasonal or long term.

We have all three vocations.

How have you understood and or answered your vocations?

The Meaning of The Acts of the Apostles



The Geographic direction of the story is from Jerusalem to Rome.

The Cultural-Political movement is from Nazareth to the Empire.

The Ethnic shift is from Jews to Gentiles.

The way of the gospel is relational, small steps.

One person at a time, one family, one town, one community.

Starting with you.

"Give me ten people who are completely committed to Christ and we will change the world."

The Account of Saul/Paul

A particular Story can also be universal.



Conversion

Acts 9, Acts 22, Acts 26



Preparation

Acts 9:19-30; Galatians 1:17-19

3 Days in Damascus

Went to Arabia (Galatians 1:17-18)

3 Years in Damascus (Galatians 1:17-18)

13 Days in Jerusalem with Cephas (Peter) & James (Galatians 1:17-19)

Syria & Cilicia

10 Years in Tarsus

About 14 years in total.

Barnabas gets him from Tarsus and takes him to Antioch (Syria) (Acts 11)

This did not happen overnight.

How long have you been a Christian?

It's not about time, but commitment.

Mission



Acts 13-14 First Missionary Journey

Taken by Barnabus from Tarsus to Antioch.

Preaching in synagogues.

Thought to be Zeus and Hermes in Lystra.

What first missional steps have you taken?

Family Member?

Friend?



The Jerusalem Council regarding the Gentiles. (Acts 15)
 Paul & Barnabas disagree regarding Mark.
 Acts 16-19 Second Missionary Journey
 Paul goes with Silas instead. (Barnabas goes to Cyprus with Mark)
 Timothy Joins them in Lystra.
 Jailed in Philippi.
 Reasons with philosophers at the Areopagus in Athens.
 Stays in Corinth for a while then goes to Ephesus and returns to Jerusalem.
 Establishes churches along the way.

A little further from home.
 What secondary steps are harder?
 Reaching your neighbour or even a stranger?



Act 19-21 Third and Final Missionary Journey
 Eutychus raised from dead in Troas.
 Says goodbye to friends in Ephesus
 Prophecy that he will be taken prisoner if he goes to Jerusalem

Notice Paul is revisiting places he has been.
This is about follow-up.
This isn't hit and run.
He spends years in certain places.
Discipleship & relationship go hand in hand.
These are long term relationships and they run long and deep.

Final Destination



Acts 21-28

Tells his story

Temple

Sanhedrin

Felix

Festus & Agrippa

Shipwreck in Malta

Rome for 2 years, preaching freely

Released, Reimprisoned, Executed by Nero

Reaching even the antagonistic, your enemies.

The Meaning & Mission of Your Life

Vocation.

Engaging People Around You With Your Story - Breaking barriers.

Step by Step in Missional and Discipling relationships.