CHAPTER 29
Paul’s Mission
ACTS 9, 13-14, 16-20

THE STORY

Introduction
There are certain individuals whose impact on history is larger than life.
The Apostle Paul is one of those individuals.
• Paul started 10 churches in his lifetime.
• Paul wrote 13 of the 27 New Testament books.
• Yet Paul would call himself the “worst of sinners” and someone who “didn’t deserve to be called an apostle, because he persecuted the church of God.” I Tim. 1:16 and I Cor. 15:9
• Paul’s work to advance the gospel came at great personal cost. II Cor. 11:23-29

I. Paul understood the mission of the church.
ACTS 9

THE STORY

Paul’s conversion is one of the most dramatic in Scripture.
• Paul would call himself a “Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee and a persecutor of the church” in Philippians 3:5-6
• But God stopped him in his tracks on the way to Damascus and he heard Jesus speaking to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” Acts 9:4
• God said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles…I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” Acts 9:15-16

Saul the Persecutor became Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles.
“But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ.” Philippians 3:7-8

THE STORY

Have we made the mission of the church our mission?
II. Paul boldly proclaimed the message.  
**ROMANS 1:16-17**

“**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.** 17 **For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith’.” Romans 1:16-17

**THE STORY**

Salvation isn’t something we can earn. Salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. It is Paul who gives us the original Roman Road. Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8 and 10:9-10  
“**But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!”** Galatians 1:8

**THE STORY**

Do we understand the gospel? Can we share it clearly?

**THE STORY**

III. Paul was intentional in his method.  
**ACTS 13-14 and 16-21**

Paul would go on three missionary journeys.  
- 1st Journey – Cyprus and Turkey – Acts 13-14  
- 2nd Journey – Turkey, Macedonia and Greece – Acts 15:16-18:21  
- 3rd Journey – Turkey, Macedonia, Greece and back to Jerusalem – Acts 18:23-21:26

**THE STORY**
His method was always the same.
• He went to cities.
• To the Synagogue (to the Jew first).
• To the Gentiles.

There were times when Paul was thrown in prison. Acts 16:16-40
Paul wrote several of his letters from prison. Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon. Wherever Paul went, his focus was on making disciples and planting churches. “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.” II Timothy 2:2

Paul – Timothy – Faithful Men – Others
The book of Acts has also shaped our missions strategy as a church.
• Pastoral Training
• Church Planting

IV. Paul could not have done any of this without the means Jesus gave us.
ACTS 1:8

The Power of the Holy Spirit was evident throughout Paul’s ministry.
• Paul’s conversion was a work of the Holy Spirit. Acts 9:17-18
• Paul’s missionary journeys were directed by the Holy Spirit. Acts 13:2 and 16:7
• Paul wrote extensively on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. I Cor. 12; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 5:18 and I Thess. 5:19
• Paul’s prayers were Spirit directed prayers. Phil. 1:9-11; Gal. 1:9-12 and Rom. 8:26-27

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in your life?
Conclusion
God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.
The key is fully surrendering our life to him.
How does my story fit in with God’s story?
Who am I helping to become a follower of Jesus?

THE STORY