

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **March 8, 2020** sermon, "From Cold to Bold." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 9:19b-31) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

WHEN GOD'S GRACE MOVES A PERSON FROM COLD TO BOLD, NOTE . . .

1. The new mindset about Jesus (1-19a, REVIEW from 2/23 sermon)
 - a. Saul, having full confidence in himself and his ability to gain God's favor
 - i. Approved of things that God disapproves (8:1)
 - ii. Tore down things God was building up (8:3)
 - iii. Had established a mindset which was hardened toward God (Phil 3:3-6)
 - b. When he encountered Jesus, he repented of his self-reliance.
 - i. He renounced his education and his career path (Phil 3:7-11)
 - ii. He lost all earthly things in order to prioritize and value knowing Jesus Christ
2. The new message about Jesus (19b-22)
 - a. He proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God (this is miraculous!) (20)
 - i. "Son of God": Luke 1:32, John 11:4, 20:31, Matt 16:16, 26:63-64, 27:54.
 - ii. The crowds response: world shaking amazement.
 - b. He proved that Jesus is the Son of God (intellectually and through his changed life) (22).
3. The new willingness to suffer for Jesus (23-31)
 - a. He suffered in Damascus (preach, plot against him uncovered, leave with help, 23-25)
 - b. He suffered in Jerusalem (preach, plot against him uncovered, leave with help, 26-30)
 - i. This well-connected man was accepted by nobody until Barnabas stepped up.
 - ii. Note that it was community that saved his life in both cases.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Saul had become hardened in his mindset. He completely rejected Jesus and devoted his whole life (education, career and daily schedule) to afflicting Jesus-followers. And he could not deny the grace of God, encountered on the road. Who do you have in your life who is a hardened Jesus-resistor? Do you believe that there is hope for them? How do you pray for them?
2. Based on #2, above: The FIRST THING Saul does as a new believer is go to the synagogue in Damascus and proclaim the "Jesus is the Son of God." He said it clearly with the expectation that God would act. How do you still prioritize proclaiming that Jesus is the Son of God to the people around you? What is effective? Do you still believe God will use this message?
3. Based on #2, above: Saul not only "proclaimed" Jesus, but he "proved" Jesus (22). In proving him, we "present a logical conclusion" and "demonstrate" that Jesus is the Son of God. Are you able to "prove" that Jesus is the Son of God from the Scriptures? How might you improve?
4. Based on #3, above: Saul gave up his life: his job, his financial security, his friends and his loyalty to his old mindset. He endured ridicule and death-threats. How might God be calling you to suffer for the hope and message that Jesus is the Son of God. Are you willing?