



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
MESSAGE TITLE: ENEMY LOVE

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): Acts 9:10-31; Luke 6:27-36

In this second section of Acts chapter 9, God appears to a man named Ananias and sends him to Saul. Ananias is hesitant. He's heard about Saul and what he's been doing to Christians. However, Ananias goes to Saul because God asks him to do so.

This story teaches us an important lesson. God may not send us to the people or places where we want to go He might even send us to love and to serve those that seem to be (or that actually are) our enemies. However, We are called to obey God, whether or not what he asks us to do is something we want to do or feel comfortable doing. It's a truth that's easy to grasp, difficult to live out, and an essential piece of the Gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word "enemy"?
2. What is the hardest thing you have had to do in the last year?
3. Have you ever become good friends with someone who had a terrible first impression? What happened?
4. What was your high/low for this past week (or since the group last met)? What was the best thing that happened and the worst thing that happened?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How did God appear to Ananias? What did He ask Ananias to do?
2. What was Ananias' response? Rephrase verses 13-14 in your own words.
3. How did God describe Saul in his conversation with Ananias in 15 and 16? What things did he reveal about Saul's future?
4. What did Ananias do for and say to Saul? What happened in their encounter?
5. What do we learn about how to treat our enemies in Luke 6:27-36? What reasoning is given for why we are to behave in this way?

cont.

CONTINUED:

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. What are times in history when God has asked someone to do things they didn't want to do? You can pull examples from the Bible or world history. How does this normally turn out?
2. What are people or groups today that are thought of as being "beyond redemption" by the church?
3. What are examples of people who have seemed "beyond redemption" that God has used in amazing ways?
4. Can you think of an example (either someone you know/know of or someone from history) who has had a complete 180 in their life? How did the people around them respond to this? How is it similar or different to what Saul experienced?
5. What are groups in our own culture that view others as enemies? Think of as many pairs as you can.

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. Has God ever asked you to do something that you didn't want to do? How did it turn out? Is God currently asking you to do something you don't want to do? What is it and what is your hesitation?
2. Are there people or groups that you view as beyond God's reach? How does this story challenge or encourage you? Have you ever been considered beyond God's reach? How did God reach you?
3. Has God ever used you/your life in an amazing way to help others? What did that look like?
4. Have you ever done a 180 in your life? What happened? Are there any areas of your life today where you need to do a 180? What's holding you back?
5. Pastor Brad describes our enemies as people or groups that make us angry, defensive, uncomfortable, or that make conversations spin out of control. Are there people or groups that make you feel and act this way? What about this passage/sermon encourages or challenges you in the way you treat and view these groups?

cont.

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LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Is God asking you to do something you don't want to do right now? How can your group pray for you as you seek to obey God, even when it's hard/ doesn't make sense?
2. What's one thing you can do this week to be more grateful to people/ groups you consider beyond redemption?
3. How can you pray for your enemies this week? What can your group do to help keep you accountable?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.

