

The Conversion of Saul: Acts 8-9

Read: Acts 7:58, 8:1-8, 9:1-33

This account is very important for many reasons. But the **six** that we will primarily focus on today are;

#1 It is during great _____ and much persecution that the gospel regularly has it's _____ impact.

Application:

- When things go from 'bad' to 'worse' **have your _____ up**, ready to spot what God is up to.
- **Expect for things to get worse** in our country and in the world. The Bible predicts it.
- **Ask God to help you** raise your head above the situation you are in, so that you can _____ what he is wanting to do.

#2 God is often most _____ when he appears most _____.

Application:

- When it appears that God is not answering your prayers and is _____ in a situation...**trust that he is up to something good.**
- **Make Romans 8:28** ("all things for good") **a hallmark of your theology and your daily routine.**
- **Review God's timing in the past.** (In the Bible and your life). _____ yourself of how he often works.

#3 There is great _____ in comfort, ease and prosperity.

Application:

- Don't grow _____ to luxury and ease. **Don't have _____ as your number one goal.** It isn't God's goal for you.
- **Be aware** that quiet often, soon after mountain top experiences of success & faith is a valley of testing or hardship.
- **Actually pray for God's _____ fire in your life...**because you know that by it perseverance, character and hope are made.

#4 Adversaries can become _____. Even the most far away can be brought _____.

Application:

- **Don't consider anyone 'too far gone' or _____ the reach of the gospel.** God can save anyone. Don't give up praying.
- **Actually target those that seem well beyond repentance,** God often loves to use the '_____' to shame the 'wise'.
- **Pray for God to give you _____** as you try to reach the most difficult of society. An extra dose of grace is needed.

#5 God always uses _____ means to reach the _____ with the gospel, even in the most sovereign of situations.

Application:

- **Don't believe that God will save people by 'mysterious means'.** God has sovereignly willed that salvation come by _____ messengers.
- **As you pray for the salvation of the lost, recognize that many times you will be intended as God's _____ to the prayer.**
- When things get _____, your comfort is shattered, enemies are getting closer...anticipate that God is setting you up to be the human means of the salvation of someone else.

#6 Being able to correctly _____ Jesus is the way that the lost are saved, and it should be the _____ of all our evangelical efforts.

Application:

- Always keep in mind that **the battle is over the willingness to _____ identify Jesus as the Son of God and Lord of all!**
- **In your all efforts in evangelism always try to nudge things towards Jesus. Who he _____ and what he came to _____.**
- Regularly, yet graciously, _____ through your speech and actions who you believe Jesus to be.

Follow up Questions:

- Who is someone in your life that you feel is 'beyond hope' of repenting? Why?
- Are you willing to commit in a new way to praying for them? How will you?
- What are some ways that you could immediately try to reach into their life?
- In what ways, after the fact, have you seen God at work during very difficult times in your life, the life of the church or our nation? What have you learned from them?