

March 22, 2015

“Outrageous!”

Acts 9:1-19a

“Stories Of Grace”

1. Planned Grace (Acts 13:48)
2. Forever Grace (Philippians 1:6)
3. Resurrecting Grace (Acts 16:14)
4. Outrageous Grace (Acts 9:1-19a)

1. 1st Main Character: Saul

“...they all rushed at [Stephen], dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul” (Acts 7:57-59).

“And Saul approved of their killing him” (Acts 8:1)

“But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison” (Acts 8:3).

“Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem” (Acts 9:1-2).

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.” (1 Timothy 1:15-16)

2. 2nd Main Character: Jesus

1. Jesus is “alive and well,” risen and ascended
2. Jesus speaks
3. Jesus identifies with the church (“Why are you persecuting me?”)
4. “Saul, Saul...” (emotion, pain)
5. Jesus “grabs” Saul

3. What Has Saul Done To Warrant This “Visit” From Jesus?

“Understand, then, that it is not because of your righteousness that the Lord your God is giving you this good land to possess, for you are a stiff-necked people” (Deuteronomy 9:6).

“At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy” (Titus 3:3-5a).