
[SERMON NOTES]

Whenever someone _____ the Risen Jesus, they never leave the same.

_____ Jesus, _____ then Jesus, and now _____ of Jesus

When we risk _____ to God, Kingdom _____ is unleashed

[QUICK REVIEW]

Looking at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

[MY STORY]

What is it about a story with a moment of powerful change that draws us in? There are so many great stories that are told where transformation happens for the better. Think about it. How many superhero movies are out there where the hero has to go through something hard to have some inner change to become a better hero? How many stories do you hear about marriages being saved because of positive change? How many relationships are restored because of a change in behavior? Change is powerful! In Acts 9 we see a man go through powerful and positive change because of an encounter with Jesus.

In the space below, write out some moments in your own life where you have experienced positive and powerful change.

[DIGGING DEEPER]

As a church, we have shared a basic formula for telling your “Jesus story.” It comes down to “Before, but, and because.” Before I met Jesus this is what my life was like. But then I met Jesus and now Because of Jesus, this is what my life looks like now. Saul who became known as Paul could also share his story in this formula as well. ***In your own words, write out Saul/Paul’s story following the “before, but, and because” formula.***

It is important for you to identify your Jesus story too. It is healthy to be able to reflect on the change that the gospel message has brought to your life and be able to share it with others! 1 Peter 3:15 talks about being able to give the reason for the hope that you have. You don't have to be a gifted evangelist, but all of us should be able to share our own story. ***So, following the before, but, and because model, what is your story?***

Read Acts 22:17-21 and Acts 26:1-23. These passages speak to the reason Paul was so successful in what he did for the gospel. He was willing to go to the Gentiles and fearlessly proclaim Jesus as Savior and Lord. ***When you reflect on the opportunities in your own life to proclaim the gospel, what are the roadblocks that prevent you from doing that?***

Read Acts 9:31. This is a pivotal verse within the story of Saul’s conversion. When a healthy fear of the Lord is present and paired with encouragement and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the church flourishes. ***How would you describe a healthy church with this context in mind? What does that practically look like?***

[WEEKLY READINGS]

Studies say that someone who reads their Bible 4 times or more a week improves their joy, happiness, contentment, and overall approval of their life. (1 Tim. 4:8-10,16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). As a church, we believe that! Below are 4 passages of Scripture this week to dive into to pull deeper on our weekend’s message. We encourage you to take notes in your Bible and READ (Reflect, Examine, Apply, Do).

Acts 9

Philippians 3:1-14

Colossians 1:24-29

Ephesians 2:1-10