The Book of Acts Lesson 46

Acts 26:1-23

“God’s Plan to Involve Paul in World Missions and Others”

The life of the Apostle Paul is unquestionably one of the most historically significant to be lived by any individual. The Lord used him greatly to spread the gospel of Christ. This had great impact in his day and reverberates even today through the words God inspired him to put to pen. Because of this great impact, Paul also faced dire consequences. In today’s lesson we see Paul make a defense for his life before King Agrippa. In Paul’s testimony we see that God has a pattern for getting His people involved in His work; God comes to where you are, makes all things new, and gets us involved in world evangelism.

# I. God comes to where you are (v. 4-5)

A. In your youth (v. 4a) M*y manner of life from my youth*

B. In your nation (v. 4b) ... *which was at the first among my own nation*

C. To your city (v. 4c) … *at Jerusalem*

D. To your overcome your own religion (v. 5) … *after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.*

E. To change your plans (v. 9) *I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.*

F. These changes come by the glorious gospel of Christ. Though people make excuses to reject the gospel, an honest look at Jesus compels us to trust the promise made of God. (v.6)

# II. God makes all things new (v. 6-18)

A. New hope (v. 6-7) We are no longer to trust in the works of the law, but grace.

B. New message (v. 8) The message of the resurrection is central to our Christian beliefs.

C. New love (v. 9-15)

1. Love for Christ ought to motivate us to serve and walk with Him.

2. Love for the Saints compels us to be faithful servants as Christ our example.

D. New purpose (v. 16-18)

1. God has called each one of us to bring the same gospel to our own community in Northeast El Paso. (v. 17)

2. We may not have had a heavenly vision like Paul, but we have a clear mandate given by divine revelation in Matthew 28:19-20

*Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*

# III. God uses you in world evangelism (v. 19-23)

A. Requires a clear understanding of the mission (v. 18) *To open their eyes… that they might receive forgiveness of sins…*

B. Requires obedience to God’s will (v. 19)

C. Requires personnel (v. 20) – Rom. 10:14-15

*How shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tings of good things!*

D. Requires endurance (v. 21) People sought to kill Paul. People seek to marginalize us today.

E. Requires God’s help (v. 22a) *Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day…*

1. To be impartial (v. 22b) …*witnessing to both small and great…*

2. To preach the old, old story (v. 22c-23) … *saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.*

**Conclusion:** The pattern of God is still the same today. Because God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance, He expects that all believers will follow that plan. There are three positions in the work of missions today. Some are called to go, these are the missionaries. Some are called to send, that is done by the members of local churches all over the world. Sending involves prayer support, moral support, and financial support. The only other position is one of disobedience. What are you doing to fulfill your role in God’s plan for world evangelism today?