

Hello, I Am Jesus

The Book of Acts
Midweek Sermon
Pastor Carl Toti
September 1, 2021

Acts 26:9–11 (NLT)

9 “I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene. 10 Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem. Authorized by the leading priests, I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death. 11 Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities.

Paul Recounts His Conversion

Acts 26:12–17 (NKJV)

12 “While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, 13 at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. 14 And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

1. Hearing God’s Voice

Acts 26:14 (NKJV)

“...I heard a voice speaking to me...”

“The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.”

—C. S. Lewis

2. No Use Resisting

Acts 26:14 (NKJV)

“...It is hard for you to kick against the goads...”

Acts 26:15–18 (NKJV)

15 So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 16 But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. 17 I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, 18 to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’

The power of your testimony is a formidable offensive spiritual weapon.

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

One of the clear signs of conversion is evangelism.

Mark 5:18-20 (ESV)

18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed with demons begged him that he might be with him. 19 And he did not permit him but said to him, "Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone marveled.

SALVATION PROCESS

TURN FROM DARKNESS TO THE LIGHT

(see 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 4:18; 5:8; Colossians 1:12–13).

THE POWER OF SATAN TO THE POWER OF GOD

(see Luke 10:19)

FORGIVENESS OF SINS

(see Acts 13:38; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14).

INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS

(see Colossians 1:12; 1 Peter 1:3-4)

SANCTIFIED AND SAVED BY FAITH

(see Hebrews 10:10-25)

TRUE STATE OF LOST SOULS

Paul gives us here a foreboding reminder of what it means to be lost. Apart from Christ, people are blinded and in spiritual darkness.

THE LOST ART OF EVANGELISM

Paul's pattern of testifying—

1. Paul wasn't miserable, and now after meeting Jesus, he is _____.
2. We are not searching for God; He is _____ for us.
3. Paul had joy, which was based on condition of a _____ heart.

Acts 26:2 (KJV)

2 I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for myself this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews:

ANSWERS:

1. FULFILLED
2. SEARCHING
3. CHANGED