

Acts: The Gospel Gone Viral
Lesson 19 “Right Call, Wrong Season”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *Acts*. We are going through the entire book and looking at how the Church was born in revival and this caused the Gospel to go viral.

A. We've studied several revivals that occurred throughout the first five years of the church. These include Pentecost in *Acts 2* - 3,000 saved, healing of lame man - *Acts 3-4* - 5,000 saved, signs and wonders and the healings off Peter's shadow - *Acts 5* - all Jerusalem filled with the doctrine of Christ., and the revival in Samaria - *Acts 8* - All of the city filled with joy.

B. *Acts 9* introduced a new revivalist to us named Saul of Tarsus who will later be known as the Apostle Paul. Last week we studied the calling of Paul.

1. God had been pricking Paul's heart for an extended period of time prior to His encounter with the Holy Spirit on the Road to Damascus.
2. God called Paul to Himself and then called Him to share the gospel to Gentiles, kings, and children of Israel. God spoke this to Paul directly (*recorded in Acts 26*) and to Ananias. Ananias prayed for Paul's eyesight to be healed and then shared what the Lord spoke to Him about Paul's life (confirmation).
3. We made the point last week, God will speak to our hearts about our call, but it will be evident to others (mature believers) and they can confirm our call.

C. Today we are going to look at the early days of Paul's ministry how he had the right call, but was operating in the wrong season and location and this created chaos.

II. Right Call, Wrong Season

A. **Matthew 13:31-32** This passage says the kingdom of heaven is like seed, not the full blown mustard tree. Why is this important? The kingdom comes in process.

1. When God speaks to us, it is seed. Many people don't realize this and when the full blown manifestation of what they are believing for isn't immediate, they get discouraged and quit.
2. Many people I graduated Bible School with felt called into ministry and when the evangelistic crusade didn't open up or the church of 500 didn't call and offer them the senior pastor position they moved on and went back to secular work.
 - a. The didn't realize the small group they were leading, the prison ministry they were serving in, etc. was the seed that they were called to steward that was going to lead to the full blown mustard tree.
3. When I was in Bible school - faithful to help where I could in school, led small groups at CCC, took the mission trip I was called to in Russia and taught there,

and through that built relationships that led to me getting to be the intern for Barry Bennett. Then took job in phone center for AWTI and gained more experience.

- a. When I was ready to leave Colorado, had confirmation from Greg Mohr, Max Cornell, and Lawson Perdue we were ready to plant a church.
- b. What if I didn't discern my seed? I'd still be working as a recruiter.
- c. Even what I'm doing today is seed for a greater harvest.

4. Andrew Wommack said God spoke to him about having a world wide ministry and he asked God how he would get there. God said to put the seed of the word in his heart and he would be like the mustard tree in this parable. Took 32 years.

B. Acts 9:19-31

1. **Acts 9:31** We see the churches are filled with peace, were built up, and they multiplied. Why is this statement made? Look back at **Acts 9:19**.
2. **Acts 9:19-22** The immediate reaction to Paul's ministry is fear. Everyone is suspicious of his motives because he had not proven himself to people.
 - a. **Luke 2:52** Favor with man gives us influence in the earth.
 - b. Paul did increase because God is faithful to His word, but He was out of season. Look at **Acts 13:1** - this is 14 years after Paul is saved.
3. **Act 9:23-25** The Jews plotted to kill Paul after a few days. Paul's life was threatened because he was ministering in the wrong place. **Acts 9:17-18**. He was supposed to minister to the Gentiles and not the Jews who met in synagogues.
 - a. Kenneth Copeland story - about killed in a car wreck in Houston when he was called to be in Tulsa.
 - b. Didn't want to move to Tulsa because he thought he might starve. Gloria said, "I'd rather starve in the will of God than out of God's will."
 - c. Many of us have never experienced the fulness of God's provision because we don't want to leave what is comfortable even if we are in lack.
4. **Acts 9:26-30** Paul came to Jerusalem after leaving Damascus. Most probably three years after his conversion. **Galatians 1:18-19**.
 - a. The Apostles did confirm Paul's conversion and his ministry.
 - b. The Jews were still trying to kill Paul because he was in the wrong place (Jerusalem). **Acts 22:17-21**. Paul sent from Jerusalem to Gentiles.
 - c. Paul served in ministry for a period of years out of Antioch before being sent on his missionary journeys.

III. Conclusion - We must be pay attention to the voice of God that is seed for the vision He has for our lives. We must then be faithful with God's preparation process so we are ready when the promised comes to pass.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer