



Sermon Series Notes

“Follow Me As I Follow Christ” (Acts 19:8-21:1)

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Intro: Saul of Tarsus was a man who was extremely zealous for God, but his zeal was not based on knowledge. He sought to establish his own righteousness based on keeping the OT Law of Moses. He was a Pharisee, which meant he tithed meticulously, fasted twice a week, and kept all the religious traditions of the day. He tells us in Philippians 3:6 that he was, as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. He thought he was serving God by persecuting followers of Jesus Christ. But everything changed one day as he was on the road to Damascus, headed there with authority from the chief priest to arrest any Christians and take them as prisoners back to Jerusalem. The resurrected Christ appeared to him, and he was gloriously saved. He became an apostle, and a great one at that. He changed his name from Saul to Paul (“little”). I know of no other Bible character who exemplified a greater commitment to God than Paul the apostle. In the next two chapters of our study of the book of Acts, characteristics of Paul’s life are seen, and I want to note these so that we have the opportunity to learn from them, and hopefully emulate this great man of God. Let me preface the message with an incredible statement Paul made in I Corinthians. I Cor.11:1 “Follow me as I follow Christ.”

- Consistently taught the Word of God (19:8-10)
 - James 3:1; Most of us are not called to publicly teach & preach the Word of God, but the vast majority of us are called to teach the Word in some capacity. For example, all parents are to teach the Word to their children.
 - Deut. 6:6-7 These commandments I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.
 - Deut. 11:18-19 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds...teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road.
 - Eph.6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.
 - For my first few years as a father, I was not teaching my children the Word of God. But I’m thankful I finally went to my wife, who was regularly teaching our children the Word, and asked if I could get in on the game. We set a schedule, and certain days I would lead in family devotions, and others she would lead while I was away at work. When we took vacations, we would every morning have time in the Word and then commit the day to the Lord. To this day we talk about the Word at home, and when we travel. And it has made a huge difference in the lives of our children.

- Extraordinary anointing (19:11-12)
 - If you want God to do something extraordinary in and through your life, don't be ordinary.
- Had a reputation in hell (19:13-16)
 - "Jesus I know, & Paul I know about"
 - I wonder if my name ever comes up in hell?
- Fruitful ministry (19:17-27)
 - Eph.2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
 - John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit...
 - Rom.7:4
 - The amount of fruit is determined by God, but our "success" is dependent on our faithfulness.
 - Parable of talents
 - Mark 4:8...other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, and some a hundred times.
 - II Cor.8:12 For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have.
 - At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will only be judged based on God's expectations for us personally.
- An encourager (Summarize 19:28-41; Read 20:1-3a)
 - II Cor.13:11...encourage one another...
 - Read I Thess.4:13-18 ; 5:10-11;
 - Heb.3:13...encourage one another daily...
 - One of the greatest reasons I miss Pastor Vivian Laird is because he was such an encourager.
- A leader who influenced other leaders (20:4)
 - These are disciples who had not only been influenced by Paul's ministry where they lived, but who had left whatever occupations they had behind and were now full time ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ. If God called you into full time service, would you step out by faith and follow His will for your life?
- Lovingly long-winded (20:7-12)
 - So zealous in his teaching, preaching, & encouraging ministry that he sometimes gave people more than they could handle. I have put many people to sleep over the years, but as far as I know I've never killed anybody!
 - Mark 10:1...crowds of people came to him, and as was his custom, he taught them.

- Spent time alone with God (20:13)
 - Luke 5:16...Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.
 - Booklet “Spending Time With God”
- All in for Christ (20:22-24)
 - Luke 9:23...Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.
 - I Cor.15:31...I die every day...
 - Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters – yes, even his own life – such a person cannot be my disciple
 - Rom.12:1-2
- Finished Well (20:24)
 - II Tim.4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
- Innocent of the blood of all men (20:25-26)
 - Ezek.3:18 When I say to a wicked person, “You will surely die,” and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood.
 - Ezek.3:20; 33:6, 8
- True shepherd’s heart (20:28-31)
 - I Peter 5:2 Be shepherds of God’s flock that is under your care, watching over them – not because you must, but because you are willing.
- Practiced what he preached (20:33-35)
- Closest family was the family of God (20:36-37; 21:1)
 - Mark 3:33-34 Who are my mother and my brothers? He asked. Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers!”

CONCLUSION

- Lord, help those of us called to teach your Word to be workman, to rightly handle the Word of truth. Lord help parents to teach their children the Word of God. May we not be ordinary. Do something extraordinary through us. And because we don’t want to be ordinary, may we gain a reputation in hell. Grant us fruitful lives for the kingdom of God. Help us to encourage one another daily. Make us leaders who will influence other leaders. Help us to make time alone with you a top priority. And may none of us be lukewarm in our commitment to Christ. Give us courage to share the gospel as you open doors for us to do so. We want to be innocent of the blood of all men. Give us hearts like your heart, the heart of a shepherd. May we practice what we preach. And may our closest family be the family of God. Finally Lord, we want to finish well.

Help us to persevere, to be faithful to the very end. I ask these things in the matchless name of Jesus. AMEN.