

Thursday

Read Acts 21:1-14. Why do you think Paul's friends are telling him not to go to Jerusalem? Why do you think Paul responds to them like he does in verse 13? Have you ever felt called to something and have had people doubt you or question you? Let Paul's conviction lead you to trust God even if he calls you to something that seems crazy to the world. God used Paul to change the world and the same can be true for you and me!

Friday

Read Acts 21:27-22:21. Can you summarize what's happening here? Why has Paul been arrested? What problems do the Jews have with Paul? What does Paul say in 22:21 that caused the Jews to immediately want to kill Paul? Paul shows incredible faith and perseverance during this time as an example to all of us. How are you being led to show perseverance today? Are you ready to give up on something and God's Spirit is telling you to hang in there? Ask God to give you grace and his staying power in what you're up against today! May you know God's grace and peace in all that you are facing.

WAKE UP... and see the Greatness What's the Mystery? Ephesians 3:1-6

Introduction
God is in the business of changing lives!

Paul – Imprisoned by God

Ephesians 3:1-2 and scenes from the book of Acts

- An undeniable _____!
- An unusual _____!
- An unshakable _____!

Paul – A revealer of mysteries

Ephesians 3:4-6

- The Reach of _____!
- Revealed by the _____!
- For _____ and _____!

Conclusion
Are you imprisoned by God?

Sunday, June 13, 2010

by Jason Whalen, Senior Pastor

Emmaus Road

...and he opened to us the Scriptures (Luke 24:32)

The Bible speaks of people for whom the world is not worthy that gave it all for the sake of the glory of God. One of those people in my opinion is the Apostle Paul who would endure such chaos to follow God's calling on his life. This past week we learned what it means for Paul to call himself "a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of the Gentiles." This calling would cost him his life and even though there were many who tried to talk him into playing it safe, he refused and gave his life that the Gentiles might know of the gospel of Christ. This inspires me and I hope it inspires you as well. We all have a calling on our life and part of being called is being committed. What are you committed to today that you would do anything to fulfill? Let's look a bit at Paul's story and see what happens when one person is changed, called and committed by the power of God!

Monday

Read Acts 7:54-8:3. What do you observe about the kind of man Paul (Saul) was prior to coming to Christ? What does it mean that Paul was "ravaging the church?" Isn't it amazing that God took this man from murderer to the primary recorder of the New Testament! What has God brought you from or through? May we never forget that our God is a God who changes lives... no matter what!!

Tuesday

Read Acts 9:1-16. What is Paul doing as this chapter opens and what is happening as the section I had you read closes? What a change! What assignment does Paul have from the Lord according to verse 15? Can you identify how "outside the box" this calling really is [hint: read verses 1-2 again]. Are there some areas in your life where God is in a box? Where might he be challenging you to think about something differently? Pray and ask the Lord to open your mind and heart to what he may be saying or calling you to do.

Wednesday

Read Acts 9:17-22. So what happened to Paul? What does the phrase "something like scales fell from his eyes" mean in the BIG picture (i.e., what did Paul ultimately see that would set the course of the rest of his life)? What is so deeply significant about what is happening in verse 20? In the same synagogue where Paul has cursed Christ and his people, he is now proclaiming the truth of Jesus' salvation story! Take some time for praising the power of God to change the course of people's lives and ask him to continue the same in your life!