

Appointed by God

*Courageously Multiply: A Series in the Book of Acts*

**October 18, 2020**

## **THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE**

*Context:*

The Early Church was multiplying quickly. The gospel message had moved out from Jerusalem and had reached Damascus. Its chief opponent, Saul of Tarsus, was on his way there to imprison Christians when he suddenly and unexpectedly met Jesus. The Lord appointed him for service. Soon, he would become an Apostle and "Paul" would become the greatest evangelist who ever lived. God uses the most unlikely people. He has a wonderful plan for you too.

### **Key Scripture -**

#### **Acts 9:1-22:**

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup> and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup> Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" <sup>5</sup> And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup> The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. <sup>8</sup> Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, <sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the

Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup>For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; <sup>19</sup>and taking food, he was strengthened.

### **Saul Proclaims Jesus in Synagogues**

For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." <sup>21</sup>And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?" <sup>22</sup>But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

## **DISCUSSION & APPLICATION**

- 1. Paul was a Christian killer who tried to destroy the Church. Why do you think God chose him to be a spokesman for the gospel? Do you see yourself as worthy to be used by God in such a way? Why or why not? Use scripture to support your answer.**



**2. The Lord appeared to Paul as he was ready to enter into Damascus. The apostle knew immediately that it was Jesus. Have you ever had an encounter in which you knew that Jesus was there? How do you know when he is talking to you? Do you take time to listen, and if not, how can you set aside more time to do so?**

**3. No assignment is easy. When you are appointed by God, a particular amount of courage will be needed. Where do you find such courage? Is there an assignment that God has given you that's causing you fear and anxiety? Find scripture that speaks to God's power and spend time praying for courage. Paul and Ananias stepped into their calling. So can you!**

## **NEXT WEEK'S TOPIC**

*Courageously Multiply: A Series in the Book of Acts*

The Gospel is Unleashed and the Holy Spirit falls on Gentiles.

Acts 10:1-48

