

# **Our Transformation Story**

Acts 26:12-32

## **5 Components in our Transformation Story**

### **1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us (12-15)**

“Kicking against the goads” as the ESV states it was a common phrase used in this time. Perhaps similar to phrases we use today like “going against the grain” or “swimming upstream” or “up a river without a paddle.” This particular phrase meant you were uselessly fighting against the will of something or someone.

We can't run by that image without asking, are you being a stubborn ox kicking against the good will and purposes of Jesus in your life or even in the lives of those around you? Saul was an incredibly spiritual man, grew up on the study of God's Word, and yet he found himself stubbornly opposed to the plan and purposes of Jesus.

Yet even in such a state, Jesus came to Saul. Isn't that good news?

### **2. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us (16-18)**

From the time of humanity's fall in Genesis until today, God has been at work rescuing man from the power of sin and transferring them into the power of God, the kingdom of God that started with the birth of Christ and will be fully realized in his second coming. And all along the way, God rescues terrorists like Paul, great sinners like you and me from the power of Satan through the service and witness of others to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Yes, Jesus comes to us as he came to Paul except now in most cases he uses people like Paul, like pastors, or family members, followers of Christ, to speak through and reveal himself to sinners like us.

And when he comes to us, as we heard in our worship theme this morning, it doesn't stop with us, but the gospel keeps going. We

are then commissioned to carry the gospel and proclaim the gospel wherever Jesus leads us.

### 3. We \_\_\_\_\_ the call of Jesus (19-23)

Said in today's language, after Jesus met Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul got after it. He went everywhere! There was no one too great, no one too small, even to the Gentiles, proclaiming they too should repent, they too have the opportunity of forgiveness and being rescued from the power of Satan into the power of God.

Are we all in this morning? Is there anyone too small that we don't have time to tell about what Jesus has done for them? Is there anyone too great that we shy away from telling even them of what Christ has done for them? The gospel of Jesus is for all. Is there anything keeping us from obedience to that which Jesus is calling us to do?

### 4. We \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus (24-29)

As he listens to Paul, it's clear to Festus that Paul is a man of great learning. Are we still learning? Are we still growing? Of course, Festus thinks his learning has driven him crazy. I don't know if you have that experience yourself, but isn't it a little comforting that even back then the Roman world thought Paul was crazy and had no context for the resurrection of the Messiah of Israel? Now 2000 years later, we are still in a world that often thinks faith in Jesus is crazy. Much of our context is different. But the question is, are we prepared to respond as Paul responds?

It becomes clear here that Paul is not speaking to save his life, is he? He's not speaking that he might be found innocent and let go free. If it wasn't clear already, we see in verse 29 that this is an opportunity for Paul to declare the gospel loud and clear for a room full of Roman officials. He is casting his net far and wide and calling all to come and enter into the life of Jesus.

*"The man had been beaten and persecuted by Jews and ridiculed by the Romans, but he still wanted people to know the Savior!"*

- Tony Merida

### 5. We \_\_\_\_\_ to the purposes of Jesus (30-32)

It didn't matter if the king thought he should be free to go. What mattered to Paul was the purposes of Jesus for his life. It is for those purposes that Paul has surrendered his life. Jesus has the final say, has the final verdict. If Jesus wants him to stay in prison so that he can further testify of who he is in Rome, then Paul is staying right where Jesus has him.

Are you surrendered to the purposes of Christ in your life? Do you see how Jesus is directing and guiding you in your life for his purposes and your testimony of the transformed life you now have in him?

### Conclusion: **Your Transformation Story**

- Where were you before Jesus found you?
- What did opposition to God look like in your life?
- Where did Jesus find you?
- Through whom did Jesus work to reach you? Can you remember?
- And for what purpose did Jesus come to you?
- Are you being obedient to that purpose?
- Are you growing in the purpose and relationship you have with him?
- Have you surrendered to the purposes and direction, the lordship of Christ in your life?