

KESSID SERMON NOTES



Sermon
"Found"

Date
6-3-18

Speaker
Pastor Danny Clinton

I am a collector of Encouraging Verses and Quotes...

Encouraging Quotes:

- "Originality is the art of concealing your source." - Mark Twain
- "Often when you're at the end of something you're at the beginning of something else." - The End of Me
- "One you are real you can't be unreal again. It lasts for always" - The Velveteen Rabbit

Encouraging Verses:

(Vs) Deuteronomy 31:6 – "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

(Vs) Isaiah 41:10 – "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

(Vs) Rev 5:5 – And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered..."

For a few years now, this Verse in Isaiah has impacted my life and ministry a great deal:

(Vs) Isaiah 1:18 – "Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

**All of these Quotes and Verses speak to what this Series is really about...
"The power of our loving God, and the encouragement that brings"**

Paul was a Man who knew this reality more than maybe anyone, ever!

- **Review:** Saul, which is Paul's given name, was born into a Jewish family in Tarsus (Turkey). He was also a Roman citizen. Schooled as a Pharisee, he was a tent maker by trade, but was most noted for his hatred of Christians.
- He believed the teachings of Jesus violated Mosaic Law
- The first scriptural mention of Saul is found in Acts 7:58, as he is a bystander watching his fellow Jews stone St. Stephen to death.
- After this, Saul sought and received permission from the high priest to proceed to Damascus for the purpose of imprisoning more followers of Christ.

(Vs) Acts 9:1,2 – But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 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.

Note: When the ESV renders "threats and murder," something is lost of the reference.

- Saul does not just make threats. He helps bring about actual executions.
- In other words, - "Paul's Crimson was both "Great and Grand!"

Conversion of Saul... (Vs) Acts 9:3-9

Commentator: "The most important event in human history apart from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is the conversion to Christianity of Saul of Tarsus. If Saul had remained a Jewish rabbi, we would be missing thirteen of twenty-seven books of the New Testament and Christianity's early major expansion to the Gentiles. Humanly speaking, without Paul, Christianity would probably be of only antiquarian or arcane interest, like the Dead Sea Scrolls community or the Samaritans."

Note: It's now here in this place of darkness, Paul grapples with a "Dawning" realization.

- Though his life was lived in zeal for the one true God, he has in reality been living in "ignorance and unbelief."

(Vs) 1 Tim 1:13 – "...though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief."

- As Saul deeply considers this, he finally accepts the divine perspective on his actions and that his whole spiritual world will be turned upside down.

Paul's Rescue (Vs) Acts 9:10-19a

- He now knows, what was gain will become loss and hopelessness.
- Paul's life was rescued and so lived out in encouraging empowerment.
- (Vs) Acts 9:19b-22 – A New Man with a New Life
- His Darkest Crimson had become his Brightest Holiness.

Important! This isn't just a picture of one man's transformational journey but a picture of all Men and Women's Spiritual journey from Crimson to Clean!

The conversion of all believers follows a similar pattern of Paul's experience.

- To see this we start with the epidemic of Self of Satisfaction.
- Like Saul most people are quite content with their life spiritually.

(Vs) 2nd Tim 3:1-5 – "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people."

God's sovereign grace arrests Paul, as it has, arrested many.

(Vs) John 16:8 – "And when He comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment."

From here a place of great darkness is then entered into.

- It's in this place a person is left with no more satisfying answers, but instead is left with only questions.
- How did I get here? What happens now? Who can save me?

(Vs) Rom 7:24 – “Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?”

It's here... Jesus Christ makes Himself known and rescues.

(Vs) 2nd Sam 22:17,18 – “He sent from on high, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me.”

Our lives are then turned inside out and transformed.

(Vs) Ezekiel 36:26 – “And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

And it's here we are forever found/saved.

(Vs) Isaiah 43:4-5a “I will give up whole nations to save your life, because you are precious to me and because I love you and give you honor. Do not be afraid—I am with you!”

- How encouraging is it to know that our God can turn even his fiercest opponent, into his most willing servant?
- He has the ability to make Himself known and available to anyone!

“The goal of hide-n-seek with all small children isn't to stay hidden...they all want to be found. All people at their core want to be found.” – Rick Rusaw