

Sunday, July 10, 2011

Pastor Joseph Ardayfio

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BIBLE STORIES Pt. 2

Timeless truths of God's Power, Protection + Faithfulness

PART V: THE POWER OF A TRANSFORMED

LIFE - SAUL OF TARSUS

☐ SCRIPTURE: ACTS 9:1-22

key theme: As part of God's mission of building disciples among all nations, God strategically orchestrates transformational encounters in our lives. But each of us has to respond in obedience to what God reveals.

 God orchestrates divine encounters that lead us to confront the events of our past and the direction of our future.

Saul was a very religious man, but God appeared to him to show him how his religion got in the way of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

2) God strategically uses other individuals as part of our transformation process

God used the men traveling with Saul and a disciple of Christ called Ananias to effect transformation in the life of Saul. Each had a role that was critical no matter how insignificant it appeared to the individuals.

- 3) God's choices reflect his grace, wisdom, and foreknowledge God chose Saul as a reflection of God's grace. No one is outside of God's reach and no one is above God's transforming power. It was ironic that Saul, the one who was administering suffering was now going to be under the hand of suffering himself. However, this time it was going to be suffering for righteousness sake.
- 4) God uses our individual experiences as part of our service towards Him

Saul, being associated with both Jews and Gentiles, was trained in the OT Scriptures as well as the Greek philosophies and Roman laws. God was going to use this unique dynamic to accomplish His purposes. However, Saul had to fully yield himself over to God, so that God could transform his experiences for use in the kingdom of God.

Mars Hill Fellowship Church is a diverse gathering of believers in the Metro Boston area. We come from a variety of cultures, ages, educational backgrounds, and family histories, but we share the common testimony of being transformed by God's everlasting love. We are living witnesses that the gospel is real and has the power to redeem all people. We strive to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.