

THE BOOK OF ACTS

ACTS 9:20-43 | LESSON SUMMARY

Testimony

ACTS 9:20, "And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." (ESV)

- Immediately
 - Saul doesn't waste time; there is debate as to how much time is referred to between his conversion and preaching, however, he makes his faith public in the synagogue
 - The Christians in Damascus knew who Saul was
- Ἰουδαῖος = the Jews
 - Acts 9:23, "...the Jews plotted to kill him..."
 - Ἰουδαῖος Refers specifically to Jewish religious leaders and those under their influence, not all Jewish people
- Murder Plot
 - The first, but certainly not the last time Paul will escape death
 - The same people who once applauded him, now plotting to kill him

Witness

ACTS 9:26, "And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple." (ESV)



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- Saul's dilemma
 - His reputation is a hindrance
 - He needs someone to vouch for him
- Remember Barnabas "son of encouragement"?
 - Barnabas re-enters the story and will feature prominently in Saul's ministry
 - Here he reassures the Christians that Saul is genuine

ACTS 9:27, "But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus." (ESV)

- The Hellenists
 - "But they were seeking to kill him." (Acts 9:29, ESV)
 - Hellenists = Greek Speaking Jews

ACTS 9:31, "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied." (ESV)



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ACTS 9:37, "In those days she became ill and died, and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room." (ESV)

- Meanwhile, Peter is very much still ministering
 - The customs and many of Luke's references are intentionally showing Jewish practices
- Talitha cumi, Tabitha arise
 - Mark 5:41
 - Luke 8:54
- "And he stayed in Joppa for many days with one Simon, a tanner." (Acts 9:43, ESV)
 - Contact with dead animals and animal skins would have made Simon "unclean"

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Victor P. Hamilton, Handbook of the Pentateuch, C. Hemer, The Book of Acts in the Setting of Hellenistic History, Randall Price, Zondervan Handbook of Biblical Archeology, The Holman Bible Atlas

