

ENCOUNTER

Bridge Building Stories

**Extreme Makeover:
Saul Edition**

Acts 9:1-22

Extreme Makeover: Saul Edition

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

Extreme Makeover: Saul Edition

I. God transforms the ugliest
of sinners for His glory

II. God uses the oddest of
instruments for His purposes

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

Acts 9:1-2

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

Acts 26:11

“...being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.”

Galatians 1:13

“For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.”

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

- ❖ **God shows Himself to sinners with power**

Acts 9:3-4

As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

- ❖ **God shows Himself to sinners with power**
 - **Genesis 22:11 = Abraham, Abraham**
 - **Genesis 46:2 = Jacob, Jacob**
 - **Exodus 3:4 = Moses, Moses**
 - **Acts 9:4 = Saul, Saul**

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

- ❖ **God softens the hearts of sinners with grace**

Acts 9:5-6

And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

❖ **God softens the hearts of sinners with grace**

Acts 22:8,10

And I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?'
And He said to me, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting.'
And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?'

ENCOUNTER

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

- ❖ God shows Himself to sinners with power
- ❖ God softens the hearts of sinners with grace

From sanctified to useful

2 Timothy 2:20-21

Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor.

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

Extreme Makeover: Saul Edition

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God works through others**

Acts 9:10-12,17

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God works through others**

Acts 9:10-12,17

... Saul, for he is praying, 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.” So Ananias departed and entered the house.

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God shapes our lives**

Acts 9:15-16

"Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

ENCOUNTER

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God shapes our lives**

Psalm 139:13-16

For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth;

ENCOUNTER

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God shapes our lives**

Psalm 139:13-16

... Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were written all the days that were ordained for me, When as yet there was not one of them.

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God shapes our lives**

Ephesians 2:10

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God executes His plan to perfection**

Acts 9:19-22

Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those

ENCOUNTER

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God executes His plan to perfection**

Acts 9:19-22

... who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"
But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God executes His plan to perfection**
Genesis 50:20

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result."

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

❖ **God executes His plan to perfection**

Romans 8:28

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

- ❖ God works through others
- ❖ God shapes our lives
- ❖ God executes His plan to perfection

Extreme Makeover: Saul Edition

I. God transforms the ugliest of sinners for His glory

II. God uses the oddest of instruments for His purposes

That's You

ENCOUNTER