

"HEAVENLY VISION"

Acts 26:12-19

Going to look at the calling of a man named Saul: Forms a Pattern for us.

Acts 26:12-19 ¹²"While thus occupied, as I journeyed to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, ¹³at midday, O king, along the road I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. ¹⁷I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, ¹⁸to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'

¹⁹"Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision,

I. INTERRUPTED ON THE ROAD

A. Saul was journeying on the road to Damascus: **Everyone is on a road in life!**

1. Some are wandering on the road aimlessly:
 - a. No clear plan – lazily wandering: *They achieve nothing*
2. Others are like Saul: They have a clear goal in mind and are pursuing it aggressively
 - a. *Even something evil – he was dedicated to it*

B. But God has the right to interrupt us and reveal His plans for our lives

1. **V16** I have appeared to you for this purpose...plan/deliberate intention; Calling =purpose
2. **Calling is a Divine choice: Not merely personal preference**
 - a. **Colossians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God,
 - b. **Jeremiah 1:5** "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."
3. **Calling makes you God's representative on earth:**
 - a. **V16** to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you.
4. **Calling is all about other people: Not personal achievement**
 - a. **V18** to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith...
 1. Save their souls 2. Deliver from power of hell 3. Change their lives
 - b. A larger purpose than money/career/awards/recreation...

II. MEETING WITH GOD

A. Everything changes when God reveals His will to us

1. How God reveals His plans will be different for each person
 - a. Some: *Sudden/dramatic* Saul; A light/a voice! b. Others: *Gradual*
 - c. Some: God can speak clearly: *Me - that's what I want you to do*
 - d. Some: Dawning realization they were made for something else; *A holy dissatisfaction*
 - e. Others: *Moved by need*; Nehemiah's heart was hurting for his people/Jerusalem
2. How God speaks is not the point: It is from God – not man! This is not a program!
 - a. If God has not spoken: **ASK! 1 Samuel 3:10** Then Samuel answered, Speak, Lord, for Your servant is listening
 1. **Acts 9:6** ⁶So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

III. AFTER THE VISION

A. The key to whether or not the heavenly vision comes true is what happens after the vision

1. If you refuse to do what God says/what is necessary to fulfill: *The plans of God do nothing*
 - a. **Matthew 19:22** But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
 1. "Of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these, 'It might have been.'"
2. Destiny is released by obedience: **V19** Therefore, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision
 - a. Life can't stay the same: we must make choices that enable God's will
 1. Time/\$/priorities/involvement/marriage choice/marriage
 - b. Every choice is a calling choice – a destiny choice: Brings us closer or takes us farther away