

Sermon Notes

ONE

ONE CHURCH: Part 20 “Consequences of Focus” Acts 21-22

February 21, 2021
Karl Helvig

Introduction

Choices have consequences.

6 Consequences of Focus

*Focus makes pain more **bearable** because it clarifies pain's **purpose**.*

Focus deflects distractions.

Focus keeps us **on track**.

Focus highlights critical actions.

What are the most critical **actions** you need to take to **accomplish** the mission God has given you?

Focus fuels perseverance.

When we are absolutely **certain** what we are made to do, we will **endure** great hardship to achieve that end.

Strengthen the **clarity** of your focus, and you will increase your **endurance**.

Focus cultivates courage.

Increase your **focus** and you will find more **courage**.

Focus gives purpose to your story.

No matter what your **story** is, in God's kingdom it has a powerful **purpose**.

Your Move

What is the focus of your life?

Scripture study
Journaling
Prayer

Will you make Christ and his kingdom the focus of your life?



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Introduction:

When did you most poignantly learn the lesson that actions have consequences?

In Karl’s sermon, he talked about the “consequences of focus.” Before you begin discussing what Karl said, what consequences of focus – both good and possibly bad – come to your mind?

Read Acts 21-22

As a group, briefly summarize what happened to Paul in these two chapters. What were the main events?

Here are the “6 Consequences of Focus” Karl observed. He said that focus

- makes pain more bearable.
- deflects distractions.
- highlights critical actions.
- fuels perseverance.
- cultivates courage.
- gives purpose to your story.

Which of these six “consequences” resonated most with you and why?

Which of these seemed least relevant to your experience?

What is one practical action you could take this week in response to this sermon?

Your Move:

Karl again gave three suggestions for homework after the sermon.

Scripture study

There are three places in Acts where Paul tells the story of his encounter with Jesus: Acts 9:1-19, Acts 22:1-21, and Acts 26:1-32. Read through them, and then ask yourself, “Do I have a story about God’s call on my life?”

Journaling

Just like last week, do you need to take some time to reflect on the past? Thinking/journaling about the significant moments in your life that have led you to where you are is a powerful activity. Ask yourself: What is my focus? How do I discover the focus of my life? What actions do I need to take to live out that focus?

Prayer

Season Two of our Centered podcast is live! The introduction and the first two episodes are available. Also, the new website for this podcast, CCC-Centered.com, is also live. You will find original artwork by CCC artists with each episode as well as other options to make this podcast an immersive experience to help you learn and grow in your practice of prayer.

Which of these – or other responses to the sermon – do you intend to pursue this week?