

Follow Me As I Follow Christ - A Journey with Paul

“*Surprise Beginnings*”

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1 Timothy 1:12-16

4.10.16

- A. Whose _____ are we going to follow?
- B. Paul wrote, “Follow ____ example, as I follow the example of _____” (1 Cor. 11:1)
- C. Anytime we engage in a serious study of a great life, we need to brace ourselves for _____.
1. For most of us, there are circumstances and events that _____ and _____ us that take place in the hidden years when few are paying attention.
 2. That’s certainly true of America’s _____ president, _____.
- D. Similarly, the life of the apostle Paul is also filled with _____.
- E. The Bible first introduces us to Paul (know initially as _____ of Tarsus) in a very _____ and bloody scene.
- F. To our surprise and horror, the blood of the first Christian martyr, _____, is splattered across _____’s feet while he stood nodding in agreement, an accomplice to a vicious execution.
- G. Because Paul becomes such a central figure in _____, it is easy to forget his beginnings.
- H. The better we understand the _____ of his past, the more we will understand his _____ for God’s _____.
- I. Paul’s testimony includes, “I am a _____, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no _____ city.” (Acts 21:39)
- J. Saul likely lived for the day when he would become a member of the Jewish Supreme Court called the _____.
1. Saul was likely part of the audience who heard _____ defense that day.
- K. Those were certainly maddening times for the _____.
1. Their attempt to silence Jesus and stop His _____ by having Him crucified had _____.
 2. Their attempts to silence the apostles by _____ and _____ them was also backfiring. (Acts 5:18-31)
 3. Can you guess who likely heard Peter’s speech? _____.
- L. Before Saul could organize an assault on Peter and his companions, God intervened in another surprising turn of events as Saul’s own _____ stood and took the floor. (Acts 5:33-40)
1. William Barclay called Gamaliel an “_____.”
- M. The apostles were beaten, and went on their way _____ because they had suffered for Christ and they continued to _____ about Jesus every day in the temple and from house to house!
1. And that is why Saul _____ them and that’s what drove him to take even more _____ action against them. (Acts 8:2-3; 28:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:11-12)
 2. How’s that for an autobiography “Paul the blasphemer, _____ and _____ man.”
- N. Lessons for meditation and application:
1. No matter how any of us appear today, everyone has had a _____.
 2. Regardless of what anyone has _____ or _____, no one is beyond _____.
 3. It is never too _____ to make a new _____ with God.

Answer Key: A. example. B. my, Christ. C. surprises. C.1. mold, shape. C.2. 16th, Abraham, Lincoln. D. surprise, beginnings. E. Saul, brutal. F. Stephen, Saul. G. Christianity. H. darkness, gratitude, grace. I. Jew, ordinary. J. Sanhedrin. J.1. Stephen’s. K. Sanhedrin. K.1. movement, backfired. K.2. imprisoning, beating. K.3. Saul. L. mentor. L.1. unexpected, ally. M. rejoicing, preach. M.1. hated, aggressive. M.2. persecutor, violent. N.1. dark, side. N.2. been, done, hope. N.3. late, beginning.