Small Group Questions | May 14th, 2017

Serving a Movement: Movement and Its Expansion (Acts 9:31-10:8)

Sermon Recap: Travis' sermon was on looking at Acts, "Episode II" of the Trilogy. Jerusalem (1-7), Judea and Samaria (8-12), and the end of the Earth (13-28). He said surprise laces every scene in "Episode II," with surprise results of persecution (joy) leading to surprise believers (eunuch and Saul) converting to the faith and surprise perspective (Joppa/Jonah) connecting the church to God's redemptive covenant through Abraham. He encouraged us, not to be scared or skeptical of God's surprises, but to surrender to them. He ended by sharing the new wine that God is working through our church and the new wineskins that must contain it:

New Wine	New Wineskins
Movement v. Institution	Squaring the church
Building the Kingdom v. Chapel	Partnership
Creator v. Consumer	Getting out of the Ark
Jesus as True Pastor	Plurality

Hook: These questions can help introduce the topic.

1. What is your favorite movie trilogy? Why?

Look: Read the sermon passage. Answer the following textual questions.

- 2. What are the four qualities of the early church that led to multiplication in Acts 9:31ff? How are they related?
- 3. What two miracles does Luke choose to record before the Spirit descends on the Gentiles? What might this signal about the work of the church in the world?
- Travis linked Joppa to Jonah's story of hardening his heart for the Ninevites in Jonah 4:10-11. Why would God end with a question to Jonah? How does pity fit into the work that God calls the early church to do?

Took: Applying the message to our lives.

- 5. Travis said this world makes water flow through God's eyes. Does water flow through your eyes when you look at the world? Where does it/does it not?
- 6. Which of the new wine/wineskins do you feel most comfortable with? Which brings you the most anxiety/fear? Where are you skeptical? *Check the <u>annual focus booklet</u> for more info on these paradigms located on the "current message series" page.*

Prayer/Verse: "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." - Acts 9:31