

# MISSION: POSSIBLE

Week of March 17, 2013

Moving Past Your Past • Message 3

You will be witnesses for Jesus in Lafayette, in Greater Lafayette and Tippecanoe County, and to the ends of the earth.

In what ways can a person's past hinder their ability to be a witness for Jesus?

In what ways can a person's past help their ability to be a witness for Jesus?

## Read Acts 8:1-3, 9:1-31, and 11:19-26

What kind of person was Saul before meeting Jesus?

What kind of person was Saul after meeting Jesus?

What was the mission God gave to Saul?

What role did Barnabas play in Saul's story?

How did Saul's past affect his ability to be a witness?

## Moving Past Your Past

It might be intimidating to share stories from your past, but if you feel comfortable sharing, it might be a real blessing to others in the room, so... are there things in your past that are preventing you from accomplishing your mission to be a witness for Jesus?

What do you think Jesus would say about that stuff in your past?

The irony of Christianity is that we rely on the grace and forgiveness of God through Jesus for our eternal future, but we are unwilling to let God's grace and forgiveness affect our today. That is, we know God will forgive, but we hold on to our past for now. Consider these steps I mentioned on Sunday from the story of Saul. Which step do you need to work on to embrace God's grace and move past your past?

1. Meet Jesus (he came so we could leave the past behind).
2. Get your mission (your past comes from your decisions, so let God take charge for your future).
3. Step into your mission (positive influence grows as you do what's right).
4. Pray for advocates (you need people to reaffirm grace to you and to others for you).
5. Reclaim your purpose from your past (past mistakes reveal somewhat how God wired you).
6. Sometimes you need to move (actually relocate and become a missionary to/in a new place)!

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