

Going Deeper

Your weekly guide to understanding God with others

Life of Paul - Part 9 Unstoppable

TIM PIESSE

Introduction

When we look at the life of Paul, we quickly recognise that he takes every opportunity to talk about his faith and to share about Jesus. Whether he is in the synagogue (Acts 13), before a shipwreck (Acts 27) or in chains in a rented house (Acts 28), he continually finds a way to be conspicuous spirituality, to show authentic curiosity or to offer radically ordinary hospitality.

We are called to partner with God in these 3 areas. To bring the Good News of Jesus is not just for Pastors or leaders.

The mission of God is in the hands of ordinary people - and that is you and I. Not all of us can go on a mission trip, or become a church pastor, however, we all have at least one person whom God has strategically placed around us, whom we can be an example of Jesus to. That person could well be waiting for you to take the next step in helping them along their own spiritual journey.

Read Acts 28:17-31

Discuss

1. Ps. Tim teaches us to "Pay attention to what is getting your attention." What do you think this means? Why do we need to respond to this? What is getting your attention lately?
2. Read Acts 28:23-24. What are the three key actions Paul demonstrated in verse 23? Do you think it was a peaceful dialogue? How did Paul demonstrate boldness during persecution?
3. Why do you think some people would not believe what Paul had to say, even though they were Jewish leaders?

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4. Can you think of a person whom you know that has conspicuous spirituality? What do they do differently? What might it look like for you to be conspicuous in your spirituality?
5. What might the challenges be to practice authentic curiosity to the people around you today? Why is it important to be authentic in our curiosity towards others? What happened if we are not authentic in this?
6. When Paul practiced radically ordinary hospitality, he was a prisoner, chained (verse 20) and was living in a rented house (verse 30). Do you think radically ordinary hospitality could be effective to build an authentic relationship? Why or why not? Should we go above and beyond in our hospitality, then? Discuss.

Respond

To put this into practice, think of one person around you who God has been bringing to your attention lately. Do they like you, listen to you and serve you? Commit to reaching out and inviting them for a catch up. If they are pre-believers, could it be the time to ask if they want to read the Bible with you? If not yet; prayerfully consider one way that God is calling you to help this person move forward in their spiritual journey. Commit to making that next step this week.