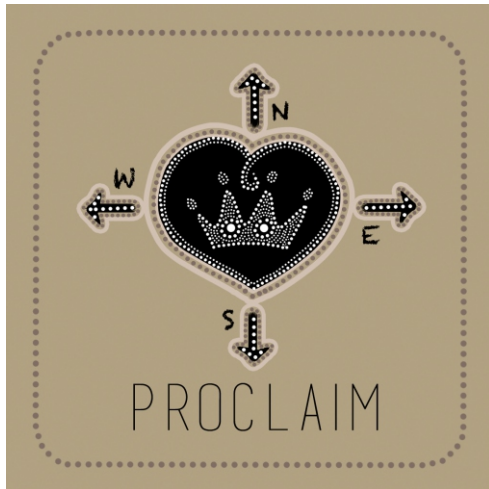


Matthew 28:18 -20
Acts 1:8
Acts 8 & 9

The apostles (the original 12) continue teaching about Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and some try to stop them. A man named Saul opposes the believers, but stops after He encounters Jesus. He then becomes the most radical proclaimer of The Story. Other believers follow Saul's example and travel to the ends of the known world to tell about Jesus



GOD: He will not let the proclamation of the Gospel be stopped. He will send people and enable them.

HUMANS: The patterns of our lives will be interrupted for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel.

Remember: The Great Commission found at the end of Matthew's Gospel is not an "if you have time" command. It is an appropriate response to knowing that Jesus has "all authority."

"The Church is the most strategic body of people on the face of the planet. It is an association of people that pulsates with the glory of God ." (From "God's New People " - the Gospel Coalition)

It is shocking to think about how much Saul **HATED** Jesus & His church. – Acts 8:1–3

Saul made it his mission to **DESTROY** followers of Jesus. – Acts 9:1–2

Jesus' encounter with Saul is a picture of the **MISSION** of the church – Acts 9:3–19

Paul's transformation **POINTS** to the glory of God, as should ours – 1 Timothy 1:15–17

- *15 This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"—and I am the worst of them all.*
 - These "Kingdom proclaimers" recognize the **DEPTH** of their sin
- *16 But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.*
 - These "Kingdom proclaimers" recognize the **MERCY** of God
 - These "Kingdom proclaimers" recognize that their transformation is an **INVITATION** to others
 - These "Kingdom proclaimers" love & serve **OTHERS** because they have been loved & served by Jesus
- *17 All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.*
 - These "Kingdom proclaimers" **ANNOUNCE** the King
 - These "Kingdom proclaimers" invite others to **WORSHIP** the King

This announcement is both **SPOKEN & LIVED** – Romans 1:16–17