"Enemies to Champions"
Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-31
Series: *In Search of Church*
Pastor Jim Oakley – May 27, 2018

God can take a wicked enemy of the cross and turn them into His champion.

1) AN ENEMY OF GOD (v. 8:1-3, 9:1-2)

2) BY DIVINE INTERVENTION (v.3-6)

3) WAS BLINDED SO HE COULD SEE (v. 7-19)

4) AND BECOME GOD'S CHAMPION (v. 20-22)

5) BUT NOT WITHOUT CONFLICT (v. 23-31)

READ AHEAD FOR NEXT WEEK: Jonah Chapter 1

ABF/Small Group Guide

ICEBREAKER: In what way are you playing a starring role in some areas of your life, and in what areas are you playing a supporting role? Why?

READ Acts 9:1-31.

1) Describe Saul's attitude toward Christianity. What factors may have influenced that attitude?

2) What is the first question Jesus asked Saul?

3) How was Saul persecuting Jesus?

4) What was Paul's initial response to this encounter?

5) At verse 10, the focus shifts to Ananias. How does he feel about what God wants him to do?

6) How would you feel if God wanted you to meet someone like Saul? Would you do it?

7) What would be the impact if the most outspoken critic of Christianity you know came to faith?

8) What role did Ananias have in Saul's story?

9) What qualities did Saul have that made him a good candidate for taking the gospel to the Gentiles?

10) What is the significance of the way Ananias addressed Saul in verse 17?

11) In verse 16, God says, "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." Why do think God says this?

12) Why does preaching the gospel go hand-in-hand with suffering? Read Acts 9:20-31.

13) Everyone's testimony and God-given purpose is different but special, even if it's not a radical conversion or missionary call. Share what you believe God is calling you to do/be at this point in your life.

14) How can we pray for you this week?