

# Unlikely Heroes of the Bible

## *"The Men Who Let Paul Down In A Basket"*

(Acts 9:1-25)

- Introduction:
1. How many people actually sit and watch the credits scroll by at the end of a movie?
  2. The speed at which these credits are scrolling might even give an indication that there is little expectation for people to take notice.
  3. Yet the movie that you just watched would have never happened if it were not for those people lost in the credits.
  4. In this series, we are discussing a few individuals who played an important role in the Bible, but very little attention is given to them.
  5. Let's be reminded of what they did, and how we can be like them.

### I. The Background

- A. Saul of Tarsus was a persecutor of the church (Acts 9:1-2).
- B. However, as he is traveling to Damascus he met Jesus, whom he has been persecuting (Acts 9:3-6).
- C. Paul was told that in Damascus he would be told what he must do (Acts 9:6-18).
- D. Now "Paul the Persecutor" has become "Paul the Preacher" and he was hated for it (Acts 9:20-24; 26:9-11).
- E. He had to be rescued from this plot to murder him (Acts 9:25).

### II. Lessons Learned From His Rescue

- A. These disciples had to have made plans.
  1. They met at night.
  2. They had the needed supplies.
  3. When's the last time you made plans for the growth and success of the church?
  4. When's the last time you brainstormed about ways to help others?
- B. These disciples acted on their plans.
  1. Not only did they make their plans, but they came together and executed their plans.
  2. Don't just "talk," but put your talk into action (James 1:21).
- C. These disciples didn't let go.
  1. While lowering Paul, they didn't quit mid-way.
  2. They finished their job.
  3. Who do you see potential greatness in and won't let go of?

- Conclusion:
1. Although these disciples aren't even named, they were heroes, having saved one of the greatest preachers who ever lived.
  2. Think of the people who will be in heaven because these disciples saved Paul.
  3. Your efforts in the cause of Christ may never make the history books, but who cares if your name is in the Lamb's book of life!