



CAPITOL COMMISSION

Saul vs Paul - 21st Century (Acts - chapters 8 & 9)

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GUEST TEACHER: Kamal Saleem:

During the 1st century AD, Saul of Tarsus made the dramatic turn from persecuting Christians to proclaiming Christ as Savior. During the 21st century, Kamal of Lebanon has turned from his terrorist mission to the role of evangelist for Christ.

Kamal will be guest presenter in our leaders' 7 AM Bible study in the Capitol: Room 142 S. March 2nd.

Kamal will also give his testimony Wednesday 6:30 PM at Wanamaker Woods Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Rd, Topeka. All are welcome there.

INTRODUCTION

How compassionate and caring are you? Jesus taught His disciples: *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven"*(Matthew 5:43-45).¹ The religious zealot Saul was traveling throughout Judah "breathing threats and murder"² against the disciples of the Lord. The radical Muslim Kamal Saleem had joined in a terror mission to Israel and then to America. Both men were impacted by compassionate Christians and the power of God.

FORGIVING YOUR MURDERERS

Acts 7:59-60 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not charge them with this sin." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.³

Saul led a great persecution against the early church in Jerusalem and the surrounding region. He was instigator of the riot that resulted in the murder of the disciple Stephen. Saul was greatly moved by the forgiving spirit of his victim (Philippians 3:1-4).

The voice of the Lord confronted Saul in a vision, ultimately changing his name to Paul (Acts 9:1-19). He won favor with the disciples (Acts 9:20-22), wrote thirteen of the books in New Testament, and was a beloved friend to many in the early church.

TERROIST TURNED EVANGELIST

1 Timothy 1:12-16 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.⁴

Kamal Saleem was born into a Sunni Muslim family in Lebanon and was recruited by the Muslim Brotherhood as a very young boy. He started training and went on his first terrorist mission to Israel at age seven. Kamal served in violent operations under several notorious leaders before being sent to America as part of the mission to destroy western civilization. He converted many to the Muslim faith while laying the groundwork for terrorist operations in the United States. But God had other plans. Kamal's world turned upside down when he was seriously injured in an auto accident.

BIBLE STUDIES – DURING SESSION

LEADERS/LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS 7 – 7:50 A.M., CAPITOL - ROOM 142 SOUTH
STAFF & GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12:05 – 12:30 P.M. CAPITOL – ROOM 142 SOUTH

Romans 8:20 “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.”⁵

Kamal’s rescuer, surgeon, and physical therapist were Christians. They prayed for him while treating his wounds with loving care (even though he had no health insurance or visible means of support). One welcomed Kamal into his home, treating him as family during the lengthy rehabilitation process. Allah was silent, but God gave Kamal a vision of peace and then sent some of His saints to serve him. Kamal’s new mission is to share the love of God through Christ to Muslims. He also speaks to wake Americans to the real threat of terrorism in our own backyards.⁶

CONCLUSION

Matthew 7:12 “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.”⁷

God sent Nehemiah to rebuild the Gates of Jerusalem to keep their enemies out (Nehemiah 2). However, we are admonished to pray for them (Matthew 5:44-45), treat others kindly (Luke 6:31) and do everything in love (1 Corinthians 16:14). ***“If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with everyone.”*** (Romans 12:18). How are you carrying out this ministry of love in your personal and professional relationships?

¹ The Holy Bible, New King James Version. (Thomas Nelson Inc). 1982.

² John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson Inc.). p1616.

³ The Holy Bible, New King James Version. (Thomas Nelson Inc). 1982.

⁴ The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica). 1984.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Kamal Saleem, The Blood of the Lambs. (Howard/Simon & Schuster). 2009.

⁷ The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica). 1984.