

Walking on Sunshine

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S GLORIOUS
JOURNEY TO FREEDOM



A SUMMER STROLL THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS









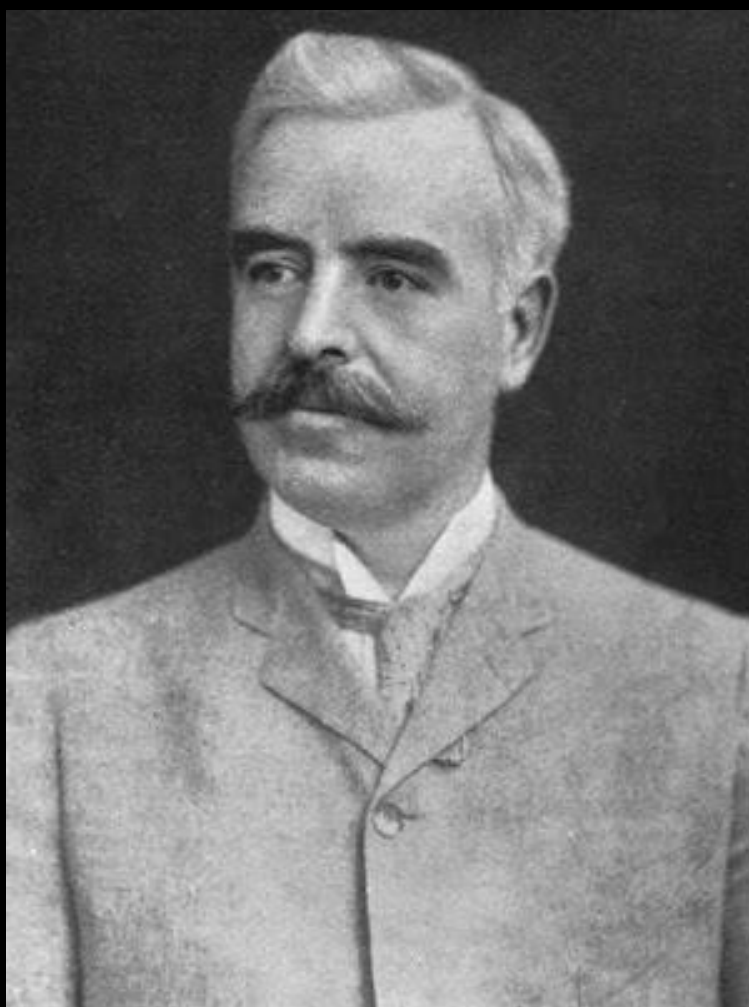














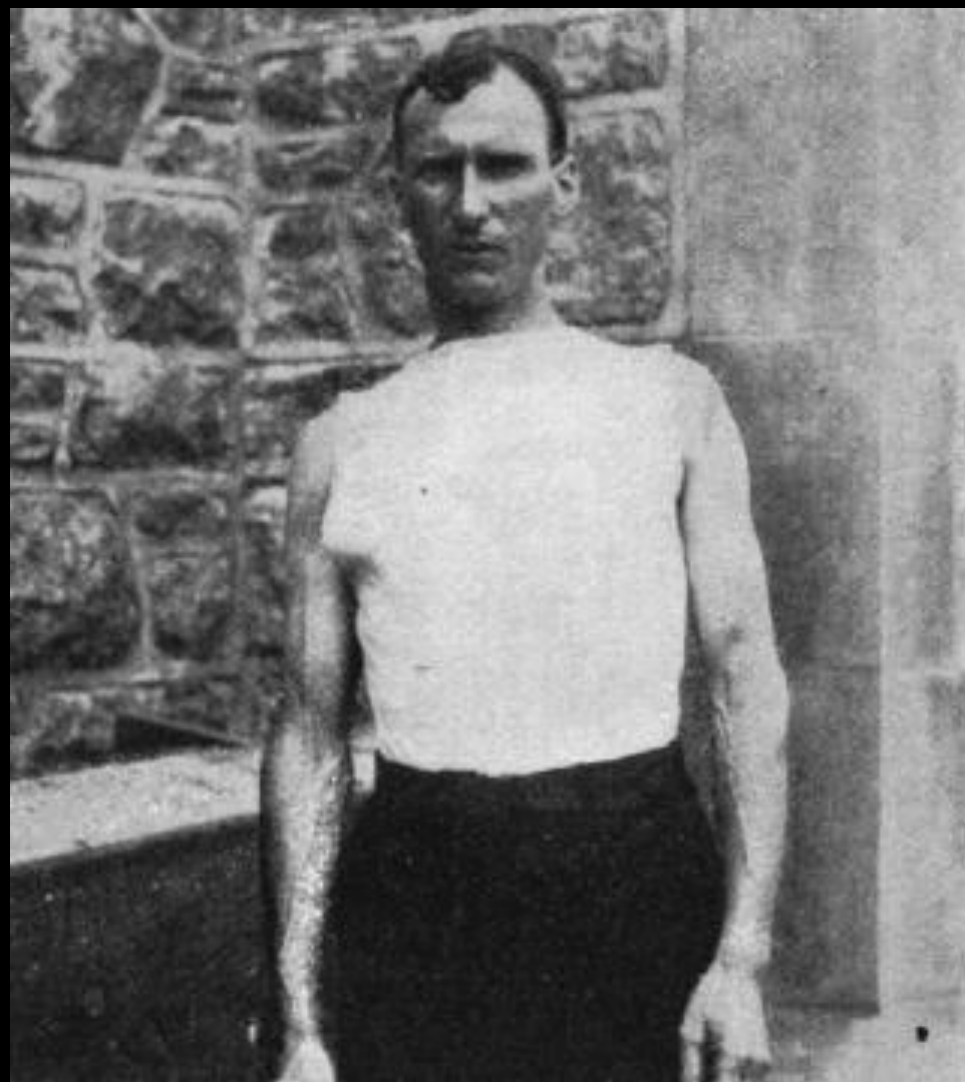


















Worlds Apart

Acts 9:20-31; 11:19-30

June 16, 2019

Worlds Apart

1 Corinthians 9:24 (NIV): “Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.”

Worlds Apart

Hebrews 12:1 (ESV): “Let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”

Worlds Apart

2 Timothy 4:7-8 (ESV): “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

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Acts 9:20-31 (ESV): “And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’ **21** And all who heard him were amazed and said, ‘Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?’ **22** But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ....”

Worlds Apart

“...**23** When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, **24** but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night in order to kill him, **25** but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket. **26** And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him, for they did not believe that he was a disciple...”

Worlds Apart

“...**27** But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road he had seen the Lord, who spoke to him, and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. **28** So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. **29** And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him....”

Worlds Apart

“...**30** And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. **31** So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”

Worlds Apart



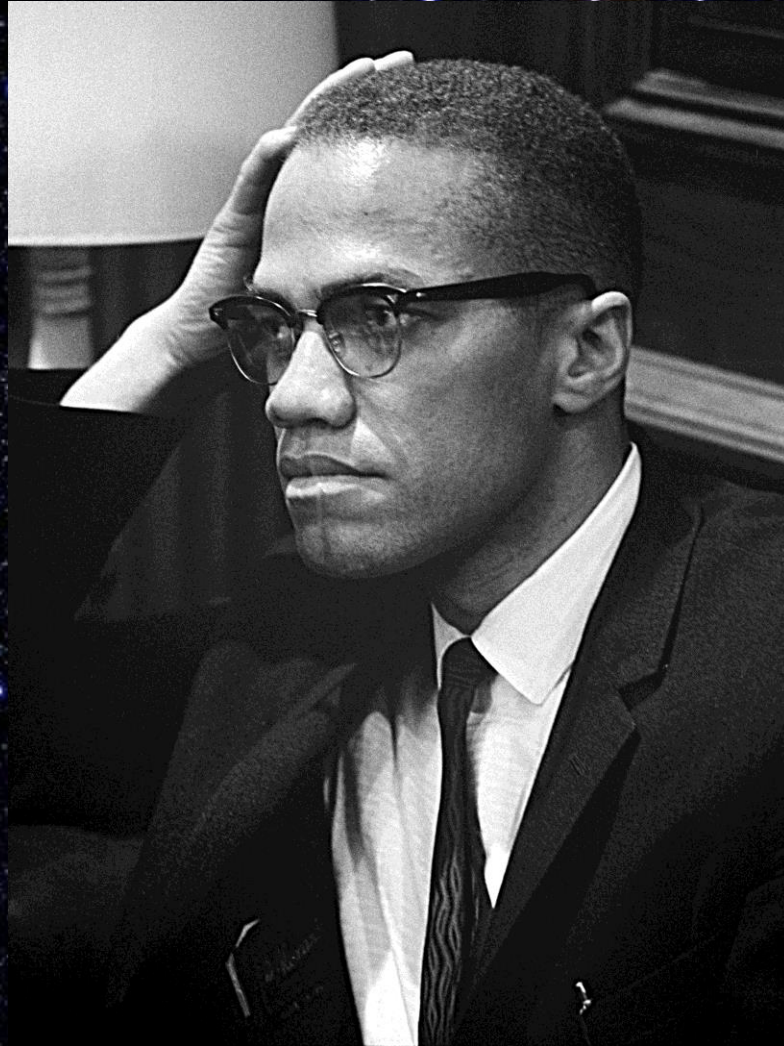
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June 16, 2019

Main Point:

BEFORE SAUL COULD BE CONSIDERED THE

REAL

DEAL,

HE HAD TO

DEAL WITH WHAT'S

REAL.

Worlds Apart

Acts 10:43 (ESV): “To [Jesus] all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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Acts 16:31 (ESV): “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”

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Galatians 1:15-18 (ESV): “But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, **16** was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone; **17** nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia, and returned again to Damascus. **18** Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.”

Worlds Apart

Acts 11:19-30 (ESV): “Now those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews. **20** But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. **21** And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number who believed turned to the Lord. **22** The report of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch....”

Worlds Apart

“...**23** When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose, **24** for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord. **25** So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, **26** and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians....”

Worlds Apart

“...**27** Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. **28** And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). **29** So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. **30** And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.”

Worlds Apart

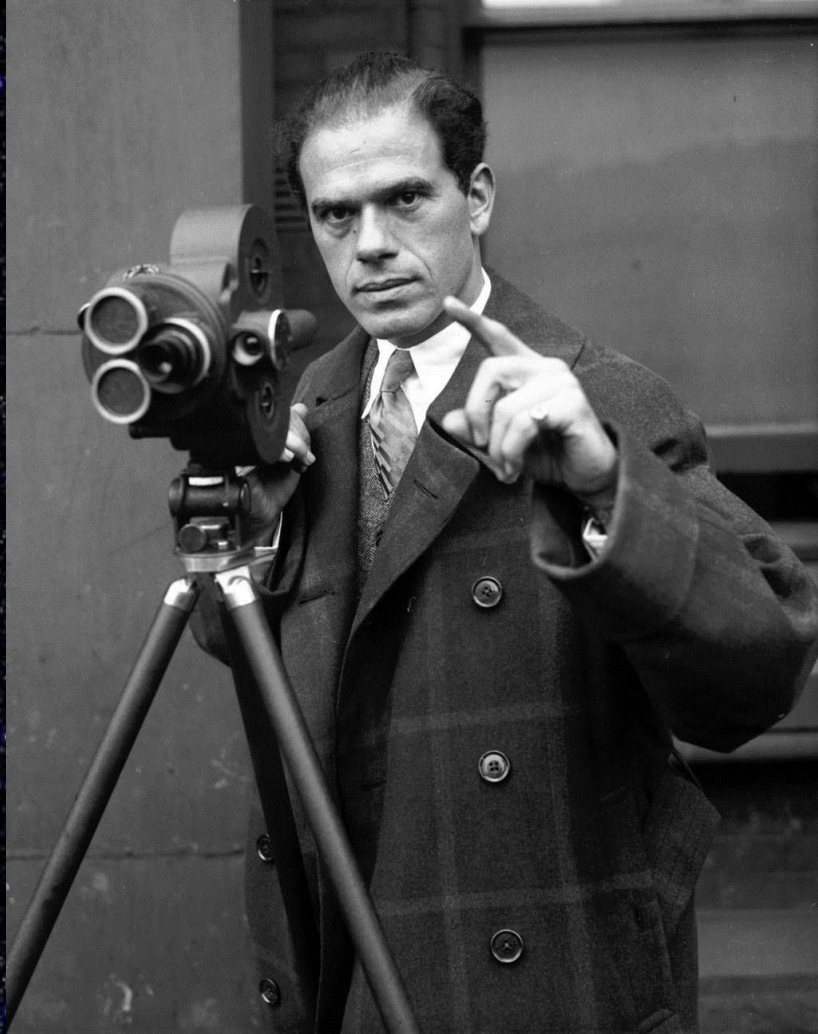
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Application:

DEAL WITH THE
REAL WORLD UNTIL THE
IDEAL WORLD CATCHES UP.

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Worlds Apart



Worlds Apart

“It’s the [strangest] thing I’ve ever seen. The film has a life of its own now and I can look at it like I had nothing to do with it. I’m like a parent whose kid grows up to be president. I’m proud...but it’s the kid who did the work.”

(Frank Capra, as requoted in Jay Serafino’s article “How *It’s a Wonderful Life* Went From Box Office Dud to Accidental Christmas Tradition” on mentalfloss.com, November 30, 2018)

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“It turns out Capra always knew what audiences wanted, he just needed to wait for the right clerical error to prove it.”

(From Jay Serafino's article "*How *It's a Wonderful Life* Went From Box Office Dud to Accidental Christmas Tradition*" on [mentalfloss.com](https://www.mentalfloss.com), November 30, 2018)

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Romans 15:1 (CEV): “If our faith is strong, we should be patient with the Lord’s followers whose faith is weak.”

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Hebrews 11:13-16 (ESV): “These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. **14** For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. **15** If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. **16** But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one.”

Worlds Apart

Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV): “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

Worlds Apart

1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV): “We urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.”

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NEXT WEEK: ACTS CHAPTERS THIRTEEN AND FOURTEEN