

The Ox And The Goats

Acts 26:9-15

Paul's Response

- Acts 8:1-3
- Acts 9:1-2
 - *“Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”*
- Paul had not heeded the truth from God.
- The very persecution he would later face from the Jewish unbelievers, he was committing in “every synagogue.”

The Ox

- Like a beast, in passion
 - Philippians 3:4-6
- Unreasoning, unspiritual in thought and behavior
 - Acts 5:34-35, 39
 - Psalms 2:1-5
 - *“Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, “Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us.” He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, and distress them in His deep displeasure”*

The Ox Goad



Goats, Corrections

- Jesus had tried to persuade with gentle means
 - Teaching, Matthew 7:7-8
 - John 10:10 – The Good Shepherd
 - Kind Admonitions and Pleas
 - Matthew 11:28-30
 - Matthew 23:11-12
- Many Pharisees would not be corrected
 - Matthew 23:37-39
- A severe form of correction
 - 1 Corinthians 5:4-6; 2 Corinthians 2:6-8

Kicking Against the Goats

- Rebellions against Christ's Guidance and Restraints
 - Isaiah 1:2-3
 - Seen as contempt for the Gospel, Christ's church, God
- Willful sin against the conscience
 - Romans 2:17-24
- Paul was, as many do today, persecuting Jesus
 - Today these continue to question God's existence with blasphemy unfaithfulness.
 - Despising the goodness of God.

Conclusion

- Ultimately, it is always the ox who suffers.
 - Sin makes for unhappiness, anxiety; as worldly cares are magnified and not dealt with.
 - Hebrews 12:11
 - *“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”*
 - Its intention is always to bring us to repentance
 - Will You Repent?