

Series introduction: The Others

Hebrews 11:1-40

ROPE HOLDERS

Lives of Support

Acts 9:23-25

Preview

Have you ever had to make a quick getaway?

Here is a quick summary of [Acts 9:1-22](#):

- Saul is converted on the Damascus Road ([Acts 9: 1-9](#))
- Ananias loves Saul ([Acts 9:10-19](#))
- Saul preaches ([Acts 9:20-22](#))

Read & Explain (What does it mean?): Acts 9:23-25 (Author = Paul)

23 Now after many [literally, 'sufficient'] **days were past, the Jews plotted** [counseled together, deliberated] **to kill** [literally, 'lift up'—can mean anything from, 'take him away,' to, 'kill'] **him. 24 But their plot** [plan, plot] **became known to Saul. And they watched** [to stand _____ and watch carefully; **Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures: watching . . . on the sly**] **the gates day and night, to kill him. 25 Then the disciples took him by night and let him down** [send/let down from a higher place to a lower place by slackening or _____ something (rope)] **through the wall in a large basket** [a reed basket or hamper].

The parallel passage for this text is **2 Corinthians 11:32-33: In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.**

Sneaking out the back door might not seem like the spiritual thing to do, but it's exactly what Jesus told His disciples to do in **Matthew 10:23a: When they persecute you in this city, flee to another. Barnes' Notes: Christianity requires us to sacrifice our lives only when we cannot avoid it without denying the Savior, or abandoning the principles of our holy religion.** Sometimes it is OK to run away.

Performing this task successfully took a few things from those unnamed disciples:

1. _____
2. _____ (1 John 3:16)
3. _____ strength
4. _____

Application (What is the point?)

Here are a few reasons to not let go of the rope:

1. You don't know who is in the _____
2. You might be the _____ holding the rope

Personalization (What do I do with that?)

1. Acknowledge that my rope holders _____ me
2. Acknowledge that my rope is _____ holding because of the people in the basket