

I AM - The Greatest Battle of Your Life

Unit 4: Second Chances

Lesson 2: Passion

The Cave of Wisdom

The Burning Bush: Passion – A Focused Life

The Cave Opening:

Welcome back to the cave of “I’m right!”. Our government is deadlocked, the economy is a mess of mistaken rights, our churches are splitting over issues, and everyone seems to have the “right” answer to any subject. Is our individual knowledge really this great? What if your belief is wrong, terribly wrong, so wrong it could cost you eternal life? Just how sure are you of your current beliefs? Are you willing to stand up for your beliefs? Are you ready to share them passionately with others? Are you right?

A Singing Heart: The Passion of a focused life.

Scripture: Matthew 6: 21, “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” What we value greatly is what we are willing to fight to keep. Our self becomes defined by it. And our heart becomes deeply involved in it. We spend our time and money to obtain it. Does your heart desire anything greatly now? What are you the most focused on with your efforts and dreams? Are you “right” about the choices you are making? Jesus saw that many people were

focused on material and not spiritual things. Their heart did not belong to God.

In this lesson we will take a look at two people who gave passionately of themselves to accomplish their calling: Paul and Randy Pausch.

Biblical Character: Saul of Tarsus

Saul considered his knowledge of the Law to be the “right” way. The followers of the crucified Jesus were wrong and a threat to the nation. They claimed Jesus was alive, but he looked pretty dead on the cross that day. There was a powerful group of Jews who didn’t believe in life after death, the Sadducees. For Jesus to have risen from the grave would destroy their way of belief.

Paul started a conflict during his trial, by claiming that his accusers were motivated by his advocacy of the doctrine of the resurrection. In the book of Acts 23:8 Paul asserted that “The Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, or angel, or spirit; but the Pharisees acknowledge all three”. Another group, the Pharisees, of which Saul was a prominent member, believed in strict adherence to the Law as given to Moses and added to by the priests. In their viewpoint, Jesus broke the Law and was a blasphemer who claimed to be the Son of God. And they all agreed that was not true since he was killed by the Romans.

Saul was passionate in his zeal to follow the Law. Those who opposed the Law must be punished. Saul held the cloaks of those who stoned Stephen, a believer. He was given authority by the Chief Priest to track down and punish other followers of Jesus. He was on his way to Damascus to carry out those orders when Jesus stopped him.

After Paul's conversion experience, he would make four journeys, travelling over 15,000 miles. For comparison, the distance from Myrtle Beach to San Francisco is 2,436 miles. Paul's travels covered the equivalent of over 6 trips across the United States, much of it by foot. Are you passionate enough to go the distance in anything in your life?

Act the part of "The High Priest" giving Saul his orders to capture and punish followers of Jesus. Saul was passionate to serve God. But misdirected passion is dangerous. The High Priest trusted Saul to help him keep the dissidents in line. Saul was tough, dedicated, and passionate to his path in life as a Pharisee. But he was wrong, and Jesus would show him the correct road.

Show the video of Saul's Damascus Road conversion.

Reality Character(s): Randy Pausch's Graduation Speech. In this speech, passion is defined for you to follow. When your

life is at an end, you will regret most what you wanted to do, but did not do it, for this was your heart's desire.

The Tribe: What you really want in life becomes the home of your heart.

Craft: none

Recreation Activity: “In Search of the Holy Grail”, Paul’s Missionary Journeys to find the Passionate Heart.