

A Life Changed

Acts 9:1-8

Into the Lesson:

Read quickly through the entire ninth chapter and take note of each of the people mentioned.

Imagine a movie is to be made based on Acts 9. What actors (past and present) would you cast into the various roles?

Saul-
Voice of the Lord-
Ananias-
Barnabas-
Peter-
Aeneas-
Tabitha-
Widow-

Into the Word:

While Saul's conversion is the primary focus of the sermon, there are others involved:

Ananias- How hard would it have been like to face someone who is, "still breathing threats..." against the church?

What does his willingness to go despite who was waiting tell of his character?

Barnabas- How crucial to the church is the gift of encouragement (Acts 4:36)?

Aeneas- What role does "going" play in life of the church?

Tabitha and the Widows- (Which could be the name of a C&W band) also have vital parts. What would the church be like with their influence?

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Tabitha and the Widows- (Which could be the name of a C&W band) also have vital parts. What would the church be like with their influence?

Saul- What were some of the emotions Saul may have experienced during the time he was blind?

How hard would it be for somebody with Saul's conviction to make a complete reversal of his life?

Contrast his arrival (vv. 1-2) and his departure in vv. 25 and 29 and describe what it must have been like to move from persecutor to persecuted.

To better understand the "many days" of v.23 read Galatians 1:13-18.

Into Life:

In a previous sermon, Lane quoted Augustine as saying, "*the church owes Paul to the prayer of Stephen*" (Acts 7:59-60). If that is true (it is, unless you want to argue with Augustine and Lane) what significance can a simple prayer have on the life of any church or individual we encounter?

The chance of meeting someone "breathing murderous threats" against the church are slim. But how do we prepare for those who may be less cordial to hearing our message?

In addition to prayer, what can we do to make sure we are prepared for the opportunities we have to share the gospel?

Have you ever had the chance to share your conversion experience (your testimony) with someone else? While it may not be as moving as Saul's it is still a life changing story with eternal consequence that should be told.

**Who are you Lord...
and what do You want me to do?**

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