

Saul is Knocked to the Ground

April 3, 2022

Acts 9:1-25

Saul was still working against Jesus when the Lord changed him. He actually thought he was doing God a “favor.” He believed that the Law had to be obeyed before the Messiah could come; and yet these heretics were preaching against the Law, Temple and the traditions of the fathers.

Saul was not just some average guy. His father and mother were both native Jews and he called himself a Hebrew of the Hebrews. He was of the tribe of Benjamin which adhered to Judah. He was very educated in the things of God. Warren Wiersbe writes “When you look at Saul on the road you see a very zealous man who actually thought that he was doing God a service by persecuting the church. Had you stopped him and asked for his reasons, he might have said something like this: ‘Jesus of Nazareth is dead. Do you expect me to believe that a crucified nobody is the promised Messiah? According to our law, anybody who is hung on a tree is cursed (Deut. 21:23). Would God take a cursed false prophet and make him the Messiah? No! His followers are preaching that Jesus is both alive and doing miracles through them. But their power comes from Satan, not God. This is a dangerous sect, and I intend to eliminate it before it destroys our Jewish faith.’”¹

The account of the conversion of Saul is given in Acts Chapter 9, and Chapters 22 and 26 as Paul looks back.

These are the vital truths and questions we see in the conversion of Saul:

No one is too far gone!

Paul was spiritually blinded.

I have to believe there were people knowing that God could save him and even praying for him.

Prayer matters, Spurgeon said, “Prayer is the autograph of the Holy Spirit upon the renewed heart.”

If a person has a pulse they are not “too far gone” from God’s grasp.

Meeting with Jesus changes your life (believe)!

Believe for the Pharisees and Sadducees was true belief and repentance.

¹ Warren Wiersbe, BE Series.

Total change of one's mind is to repent. To believe in Jesus changes everything about you.

The Lord apprehends us.

*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. **John 6:44***

*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. **John 14:6***

When Paul encountered the Lord He asked two questions, questions we should ask:

Who are you Lord (verse 5)?

C.S. Lewis is known for saying that Jesus is either liar, lunatic or Lord.

We must all answer the question, "Who are you Lord"?

Once we answer the question and the Lord shows us as He did Paul we then ask the second question.

What do you want me to do (verse 6)?

Answered both in God's revealed will for all believers.

Then answered as we walk with Him, each individually.

Consider Ananias!

Prayer Focus:

I will believe God can save anyone and will pray, believing He will while asking what part do I play?

I would thank God for saving me!

If I am not saved, I would trust in Jesus.

I would ask, like Paul, "What do you want me to do?"