

Book of Acts - Lesson 8

Chapter 9

Verses 9:1-9

- ▶ What was Saul doing against the Lord's disciples and what was the "Way"?
 - ▶ Saul got letters from the high priest to take to the synagogues at Damascus
 - ▶ So he could bring back to Jerusalem those Jews who belonged to the "Way"

Verses 9:1-9

- ▶ What happened to Saul on the road to Damascus?
 - ▶ A sudden light from heaven shone around him.
 - ▶ He fell to the ground.
 - ▶ He heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?”

Verses 9:1-9

- ▶ In persecuting the church, whom was Saul really attacking?
 - ▶ The voice was Jesus who said Saul was persecuting Him.

Verses 9:1-9

- ▶ Why did Jesus say Saul was persecuting Him?
Discuss these cross-references.
 - ▶ Colossians 1:26-27
 - ▶ Matthew 25:34-46
 - ▶ Luke 10:16

Verses 9:1-9

- ▶ Why did Jesus say Saul was persecuting Him? Discuss these cross-references.
 - ▶ **Colossians 1:26-27**
 - ▶ This is what Paul wrote years later. Christ is in His saints, the church.

Verses 9:1-9

- ▶ Why did Jesus say Saul was persecuting Him?
Discuss these cross-references.
 - ▶ Matthew 25:34-46
 - ▶ Jesus equated His brothers with Himself.

Verses 9:1-9

- ▶ Why did Jesus say Saul was persecuting Him?
Discuss these cross-references.
 - ▶ Luke 10:16
 - ▶ When Jesus sent out the 72, He told them whoever listened / heard or rejected what they said did so to Him.

Verses 9:1-9

- ▶ What did the resurrected Jesus tell Saul to do?
 - ▶ Get up and go into Damascus, which he did.
 - ▶ He couldn't see so he was led there.

Verses 9:10-22

- ▶ Who was Ananias? What did the Lord instruct Ananias to do?
 - ▶ This disciple in Damascus had a vision in which the Lord told him to go to Straight Street, to Judas's house, and ask for Saul.
 - ▶ The Lord also told him Saul had a vision seeing Ananias lay hands on him to regain his sight.

Verses 9:10-22

- ▶ Why was Ananias reluctant to do as the Lord asked?
 - ▶ Ananias told the Lord what he'd heard about Saul.

Verses 9:10-22

- ▶ To what service had Saul been called? How did this persuade Ananias that it was all right to go to Saul?
 - ▶ Saul was His chosen instrument to carry His name before:
 - ▶ Gentiles, Kings, and Israel
 - ▶ He would suffer for Jesus' name
 - ▶ Ananias then obeyed the Lord.

Verses 9:10-22

- ▶ What did Paul write in these passages about his life and conversion?
 - ▶ Philippians 3:4-7
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:1-5
 - ▶ 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Verses 9:10-22

- ▶ What did Paul write in these passages about his life and conversion?
 - ▶ **Philippians 3:4-7**
 - ▶ Before being saved Paul had confidence in the flesh, in his Jewish heritage. He was a Pharisee and zealous persecutor of the church.
 - ▶ But after being saved he counted those things as loss for the sake of knowing Christ.

Verses 9:10-22

- ▶ What did Paul write in these passages about his life and conversion?
 - ▶ 1 Corinthians 15:1-5
 - ▶ He preached the gospel he received, the gospel about Jesus' death and resurrection

Verses 9:10-22

- ▶ What did Paul write in these passages about his life and conversion?
 - ▶ 1 Timothy 1:12-17
 - ▶ Paul was a blasphemer, persecutor, and violent aggressor until he was shown mercy and grace by the Lord who appointed him in service.
 - ▶ He considered himself the foremost of sinners because he tried to destroy the church.

Verses 9:23-30

- ▶ When did this passage take place?
- ▶ What happened in Damascus?
- ▶ What happened in Jerusalem?

Verses 9:23-30

- ▶ When did this passage take place?
 - ▶ Acts:9:23 says “When many days had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him,”
 - ▶ This might have been when Saul returned to Damascus after the three years in Arabia.
 - ▶ Gal 1:15-18

Verses 9:23-30

- ▶ What happened in Damascus?
 - ▶ They planned to kill him . Because he “confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ”.
 - ▶ He discovered the Jews’ plot to kill him, but his disciples helped him escape the city by night, and he went to Jerusalem.

Verses 9:23-30

- ▶ What happened in Jerusalem?
 - ▶ Saul tried to associate with the disciples in Jerusalem, but they were all afraid of him.
 - ▶ So, Barnabas, took Saul to the apostles and told them about him.
 - ▶ He spoke boldly in Jesus' name in Jerusalem until some Hellenistic Jews attempted to kill him. So he was taken to Caesarea and sent to Tarsus.

Verses 9:31

- ▶ How does this verse relate to Acts 1:8?
 - ▶ The power that comes upon them by the Holy Spirit strengthens them to walk in the fear of the Lord, in order to be Christ's witnesses.
- ▶ Where,
 - ▶ Acts 1:8, Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria
 - ▶ Acts 9:31, all Judea and Galilee and Samaria

Verses 9:32-43

- ▶ Where did Peter's mission work take him? And whom did Peter visit in Lydda? And how was the man healed?
 - ▶ Peter was going through those regions—Judea, Galilee, and Samaria and came to Lydda
 - ▶ He heals a man named Aeneas who was paralyzed & bedridden for eight years.
 - ▶ Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.

Verses 9:32-43

- ▶ Who was Tabitha? What happened to her?
How was Peter involved?
 - ▶ She was full of good works and acts of charity. V37 says' "In those days she became ill and died."
 - ▶ Peter told her to open her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up.
 - ▶ In Joppa, many believed in the Lord.

Conclusion

- ▶ How does Acts 9 reflect the sovereignty of God in directing the lives of His people?

Conclusion

- ▶ In what ways do you think Saul's encounter with Jesus challenges our understanding of forgiveness and redemption?

Conclusion

- ▶ In what ways does Acts 9 affirm the idea that God can use anyone for His purposes, regardless of their past?