



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of March 30, 2025

Acts 9:1-19

[1] But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest [2] and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. [3] Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. [4] And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" [5] And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. [6] But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." [7] The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. [8] Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. [9] And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. [10] Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." [11] And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, [12] and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." [13] But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. [14] And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." [15] But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. [16] For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." [17] So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." [18] And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; [19] and taking food, he was strengthened.

1. Think about Saul of Tarsus and make a case for why he might top the list of the "most unsavable person in history". What makes a person unsavable?
2. Why do you think Saul had such a hatred of Jesus Christ and His followers? What could create and sustain such hatred? Can hatred be legislated, educated, punished or forced out of existence? How can such hatred be eradicated and even transformed into love?

3. In our passage, believers in Christ were identified as those “*belonging to the Way*”. What do you think it meant to “*belong to the Way*”? Do you think Christians today would stand out as belonging to “the Way”? Why or why not?
4. Saul, while on the road to Damascus, is confronted by Jesus. Describe how Saul was converted. Was his conversion different from your own? How so? How was it similar to yours? What does this teach us about the source/cause of salvation and why is this important for Christians to know?
5. When Jesus confronts Saul, He does not ask “*why are you persecuting my people?*” He asks “*why are you persecuting Me?*” What does this tell you about how Jesus views His church? How should this change the way you view Jesus’ bride, the church? Describe how the church would change if every believer saw the church as Jesus sees it.
6. The change in Saul’s life after conversion was drastic. *The persecutor became an apostle. The one running to hell became the means by which people would find heaven.* In your opinion, why might this change be considered shocking? Should it be shocking to us? Why or why not? What *should* we expect when a person becomes a Christian?
7. When Ananias lays his hands on Saul and confirms him as a brother in Christ, scales fall off of Paul’s eyes and he can once again see. Describe in your own life, how the “scales” fell off your own eyes. Focus on one or two of the following: What can you now see about God that you couldn’t see before?...what about your life?...about family and friends?...about your job, goals and future?...about the church?...about other? How does regaining one’s “*sight*” glorify the Lord?