



Saul's Conversion

Part 13 Acts 9:1-11,17-19

Corbett Robertson - Sierra Community Church - October 30th, 2022

¹ Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied.

⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered. ¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying.

¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." ¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,

¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Notes:

What can we learn from Saul/Paul's conversion?

Then the plague against the Israelites was stopped; The Lord said to Moses, "Phinehas son of Eleazar, the son of Aaron, the priest, has turned my anger away from the Israelites. Since he was as zealous for my honor among them as I am, I did not put an end to them in my zeal. Therefore tell him I am making my covenant of peace with him. He and his descendants will have a covenant of a lasting priesthood, because he was zealous for the honor of his God and made atonement for the Israelites."

Numbers 25:8,10-13

1. Zeal does not define truth

God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.

James 4:5

2. Repentance is necessary

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:12-16

3. Conversion is a process

'Saul, Saul! Why are you persecuting me? You are hurting yourself by hitting back, like an ox kicking against its owner's stick.'

Acts 26:14

"The word conversion in the Bible means to turn around and move in another direction... Of course, in one sense, you get converted in an instant. In another sense, you spend all of the rest of your life being converted. All of the rest of your life, more and more being converted, living your life on a whole new basis..."

Tim Keller

It's not a question of *whether* or not we will be shaped in life, but *who* will shape us?

Community Group Questions:

1. What stories/people have shaped your life that still influence you today?
2. What would you say you are zealous/passionate about?
3. What would the people close to you say you are zealous/passionate about?
4. Do you see repentance as a one time act, or an ongoing one?
5. Where are you allowing God to convert you on a regular basis? If not why?

