

Unstuck: How the Apostle Paul Changed the World

Lesson 1

Acts 9:1-31

November 21, 2021

A Spiritual 180

Introduction

Think about a time when you experienced the lights being turned out. It would probably be comical to watch as we suddenly take small, calculated steps not to bang our shins into a chair, or fall down some steps, constantly feeling around for the next obstacle in our path. Then the lights come on, and we can walk faster, more confidently toward our goal. The way is illuminated and obvious.

When we have the lights turned out or simply don't know what our next step should be in our daily lives, it can often be a comfort to hear from someone we trust. We hear that voice of someone who knows the way, and we follow it. They are our helpers in our time of uncertainty.

Saul, in our text, becomes physically blind for three days. Then, he realizes his need to trust in the next step that Jesus gives him. He is forced to rely on those put in his path to guide him in his spiritual and physical blindness. While you're reading the passage, think about how God is leading you and how you can help lead others as they walk toward the light.

Memory verse: "He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied." —Acts 9:4-5

Pray and read Acts 9:1-31. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What was it Paul asked of the High Priest regarding the Lord's disciples? (Acts 9:1-2)
2. Who was it that stopped Saul in the road, blinded him, and told him what to do next? (Acts 9:3-6)
3. For how many days was Saul blind? (Acts 9:9)
4. What was the reply of Ananias when the Lord asked him to go to Saul? (Acts 9:13)
5. What happened to Saul after Ananias put his hand on him and spoke? (Acts 9:17-18)
6. While spending time with the disciples, what did Saul immediately start to do? (Acts 9:20)
7. After learning of the plot to kill him, how did Saul escape? (Acts 9:23-25)

8. What was the reaction of the disciples upon seeing Saul? (Acts 9:26-27)

9. What did the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria enjoy? (Acts 9:31)

What does the passage mean?

1. Compare the ways Jesus appeared to Saul (Acts 9:3-6) and Ananias (Acts 9:10-16) and compare the two men's responses. What are some differences and similarities?

2. Saul was an expert in the law and the prophets, yet never had he submitted to the authority of Jesus. He had been spiritually blind. In Matthew 11:25, Jesus prays, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." What does this verse say about how we are to approach God?

