

1 **The Book of Acts**

Week 10 - Thoughts from Chapter 9

2 **Acts 9:1-20**

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, [2] and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. [3] As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; [4] and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

3

And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, [6] but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do." [7] The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. [8] Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. [9] And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

4

[10] Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." [11] And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for 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 harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem;

5

[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 bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; [16] for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake." [17] So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

6

[18] And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained

his sight, and he got up and was baptized; [19] and he took food and was strengthened. [20] and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

7 **Saul to Paul**

- People that seem the most hostile are usually the ones that are fighting the hardest to not hear HIM!
- "Saul was in *heartly agreement* with putting him to death..."
- "...Saul began *ravaging* the church... *dragging off* men and women..."
- "...still *breathing threats and murder* against the disciples of the Lord..."
-

8 **Saul to Paul**

-
- "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"
- "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."

9 **A humbling memory**

"Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to Kick against the goads."
(Acts 26:14)

"...it is useless for you to fight against My will." (NLT)

10 **Saul to Paul**

- "It is hard for you to kick against the goads."
- "Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control" (Ps. 32:9)

11 **Saul to Paul**

- "When he opened his eyes he was blind..."
- Blindness has spiritual implications!
- "Listen, you who are deaf! Look and see you blind! Who is as blind as my own people, my servant..." (Isaiah 42:18-19)

12 **The Words of Jesus**

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, for He has anointed Me to bring good news to the

poor, He has sent Me to proclaim that captives will be released, that *the blind will see...*" (Luke 4:18)

13 **Saul to Paul**

- " "Now there was a believer... named Ananias"
- "Go, for Saul is My chosen instrument..."
- "He laid his hands on him and said, 'Brother Saul..."
- "Something like scales fell from Saul's eyes..."

14 **An Early Doctrinal Statement**

"It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners... among whom I am foremost of all." I Timothy 1:15

There is hope for anyone!

-