

The Truth of Christ Transforms Those Who Believe

Acts 9:1-31

I. Before Christ intervened, Saul persecuted Jesus by the mistreating the _____ (v.1-5).

a. Saul was passionately engaged (Acts 22:3-4), solidly convinced (Acts 26:9-11), but was radically _____ concerning Jesus and His disciples (v.9:1-3).

b. Whatever Saul did to Jesus' _____, he did to Jesus also (Luke 10:16, Acts 1:1-2).

II. The revelation of Jesus radically _____ Saul, and challenged the faith of Jesus' disciples (v.6-22).

a. God invites his servant to join in this work of transformation by trusting and _____ His instructions (v.10-14).

b. God's servants _____ the power of God when they trust and obey (v.15-18).

c. The revelation that Jesus is "the _____ of God" radically transforms Saul and all who call on Jesus' name (v.9:20-22; Matt. 16:15-18; Acts 8:37; 1 Tim. 1:12-16; Jn. 1:12).

III. God's transforming work brings mixed reactions ranging from death and fear to _____ (v.23-25, 26-31).

a. In spite of Jesus' claims, the witness of his disciples, and the testimony of transformed lives some plot _____ to squelch His message (v.23-24).

b. Others submit to be _____ by Saul and serve Christ by saving Saul's life (v.25).

c. Barnabas was filled with _____ when others were filled with fear (v.26-30).

d. Faith in the Lord Jesus, and a healthy fear of God brings peace, comfort, and _____ (v.31).

Applying God's Word to Life

- 1) If you were God for a day, what is one thing you would change about the world in which we live?
- 2) When have you found yourself saying the depressing words, "_____ will never change"?
- 3) Give an example of someone or something that changed even though you never thought it could happen.
- 4) Tell others how and when your life was transformed by the truth regarding Jesus and His teachings.
- 5) What impossible challenges are you facing today and how could faith in the Lord give you the perspective you need?
- 6) What's the dividing line between walking by faith and walking in foolishness?

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Acts 9:1-31

- I. Before Christ intervened, Saul persecuted Jesus by the mistreating the **disciples** (v.1-5).
 - a. Saul was passionately engaged (Acts 22:3-4), solidly convinced (Acts 26:9-11), but was radically **wrong** concerning Jesus and His disciples (v.9:1-3).
 - b. Whatever Saul did to Jesus' **representatives**, he did to Jesus also (Luke 10:16, Acts 1:1-2).
- II. The revelation of Jesus radically **transformed** Saul, and challenged the faith of Jesus' disciples (v.6-22).
 - a. God invites his servant to join in this work of transformation by **trusting and obeying** his instructions (v.10-14).
 - b. God's servants **experience** the power of God when they trust and obey (v.15-18).
 - c. The revelation that Jesus is "**the Christ . . . the Son of God**" radically transforms Saul and all who call on Jesus' name (v.9:20-22; Matt. 16:15-18; Acts 8:37; 1 Tim. 1:12-16; Jn. 1:12).

- III. God's transforming work brings mixed reactions ranging from death and fear to **discipleship and faith** (v.23-25, 26-31).
 - a. In spite of Jesus' claims, the witness of his disciples, and the testimony of transformed lives some plot **murder** to squelch His message (v.23-24).
 - b. Others submit to be **disciple** by Saul and serve Christ by saving Saul's life (v.25).
 - c. Barnabas was filled with **faith** when others were filled with fear (v.26-30).
 - d. Faith in the Lord Jesus, and a healthy fear of God brings peace, comfort, and **growth** (v.31).

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- 1) If you were God for a day, what is one thing you would change about the world in which we live?
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- 3) Give an example of someone or something that changed even though you never thought it could happen.
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