

Acts (Part 2) | Acts 9.1-31 Discussion Questions

1. Saul began his journey to Damascus believing he was right with God, and even serving Him. Then he was confronted by the truth that the very opposite was true. Jesus revealed to him that he was an enemy of God, and then the Lord turned his life around.
 - a. Can you relate to Saul's conversion story in anyway? Was there ever a period in your life where you thought you were Ok with God, and then came to realization that you weren't? What happened and what was it like?
2. Another interesting aspect of this story is that Saul's companions heard the voice that Saul heard but saw nothing. While Saul had a powerful conversion experience, the text seems to imply that they didn't.
 - a. What truth(s) does this illustrate for us?
 - b. Have you had a similar experience in your life?
3. In this text we also see a couple characters who illustrate how we might approach others. The first is Ananias. God calls him to bless and pray for a person who had a reputation for harming Christians. In order to do it, Ananias really had to trust God and put his well being on the line.
 - a. Have you ever had an Ananias in your life, someone who prayed for and blessed you when others avoided you? If so, how did that impact you?
 - b. Who is someone in your life right now that you would rather avoid out of fear or just general dislike?
 - c. In what ways do you believe you could serve and bless them in Jesus' name?
4. The second example is Barnabas. He is the only one willing to accept and vouch for Saul. Barnabas stood with Saul when no one else would. Without Barnabas' advocacy, we have no idea how long it would have taken the church in Jerusalem to accept Saul as a brother-in-the Lord.
 - a. Have you ever had a Barnabas in your life, someone who vouched for you and welcomed you in when others didn't? If so, how did that impact you?
 - b. Is there someone that you know that people tend to avoid and others don't want to be associated with, especially in the church?
 - c. How might you be able to welcome in and stand with them?