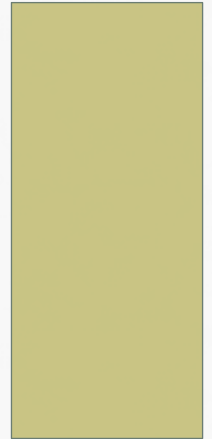


# ENCOUNTERING JESUS (13) :SAUL OF TARSSUS

DRS. NICK AND LEONA VENDITTI



# BIBLICAL TEXT

- **Acts 9:15–16 (ESV)** <sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

# OUTLINE

- **Saul Encounters Jesus- 9:1-9**
- **Saul Encounters Ananias- 9:10-19**
- **Saul Encounters the Jews- 9:20-25**
- **Saul Encounters the Saints- 9: 26-31**

# INTRODUCTION

- **Luke tells the story of Saul's conversion three times in Acts**
  - **Saul's radical transformation (Acts 9:1–30)**
  - **Saul's speech before a Jewish crowd in the temple area (Acts 22:3–21)**
  - **Finally, Saul's defense before the Jewish King Agrippa (Acts 26:2–23)**

# INTRODUCTION

- **Verses 15 and 16 give the long term purpose for Jesus choosing Saul**
- **Saul would be a witness to the Gentiles, kings and the children of Israel**
- **Finally, Saul would suffer much**

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS JESUS (ACTS 9:1-9)

- **Saul in Jerusalem**
- **Saul on his way to Damascus**
- **Saul arrives in Damascus**

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS JESUS (ACTS 9:1-9)

- **Saul in Jerusalem**
  - Saul hates the disciples of the Lord
  - Saul goes to the high priest
  - He asks for letters of introduction to the synagogues of Damascus
  - The reason for the letters is to bring back believers to Jerusalem to be tried

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS JESUS (ACTS 9:1-9)

- **Saul on his way to Damascus**
  - Suddenly a light shines around him
  - He falls to the ground
  - He hears a voice saying “why are you persecuting me?”
  - Saul asks the identity of the voice
  - The voice declares he is Jesus



# SAUL ENCOUNTERS JESUS (ACTS 9:1-9)

- **Saul on his way to Damascus**
  - **Saul receives instructions to go to Damascus**
  - **He then will be told what to do once he arrives**
  - **The men around him hear the voice but do not see Jesus**

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS JESUS (ACTS 9:1-9)

- **Saul arrives in Damascus**
  - The apostle gets up but is blind
  - He was led by the hand by the men who travelled with him
  - He finally arrives to the city of Damascus
  - He waits for the instructions on what to do next

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS ANANIAS (ACTS 9:10-19)

- Saul was praying
- Saul has a vision
- Saul regains his sight

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS ANANIAS (ACTS 9:10-19)

- **Saul was praying**
  - **At the same time, the Lord appears to Ananias in a vision**
  - **Jesus tells Ananias that Saul has received a vision where Ananias will pray for him**
  - **Ananias questions the Lord**
  - **Ananias is obedient to the request**

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS ANANIAS (ACTS 9:10-19)

- **Saul has a vision**
  - **He sees Ananias**
  - **Ananias follows the instructions of the Lord**
  - **He goes to the street named Straight to pray for Saul**

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS ANANIAS (ACTS 9:10-19)

- **Saul regains his sight**
  - **Ananias enters the house**
  - **He lays his hands on Saul**
  - **Ananias follows the instructions given to him by the Lord**
  - **Scales fall from Saul's eyes**
  - **Ananias calls Saul "brother"**

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS ANANIAS (ACTS 9:10-19)

- **Saul regains his sight**
  - **Saul gets up**
  - **Saul is baptized**
  - **Saul eats**
  - **Saul is strengthened**

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE JEWS (ACTS 9:20-25)

- **Saul proclaims Jesus**
- **Saul confounded the Jews**
- **Saul escapes from Damascus**



# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE JEWS (ACTS 9:20-25)

- **Saul proclaims Jesus**
  - The place where Saul first went to preach was to the synagogues
  - It was a natural bridge for Saul
  - The Jews were expecting the Messiah
  - The Jews also were familiar with Scripture and the promises

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE JEWS (ACTS 9:20-25)

- **Saul proclaims Jesus**
  - The message was that Jesus was the Son of God
  - This is the only time in Acts the messianic title “Son of God” is used
  - It was viewed as being blasphemous to the Jewish believers
  - Saul could have been killed for making such a statement

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE JEWS (ACTS 9:20-25)

- **Saul confounded the Jews**
  - The synagogue attenders were amazed
  - The reaction to Paul was similar to the one of Ananias (Acts 9:13-14)
  - Many did not understand how someone could be so radically transformed

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE JEWS (ACTS 9:20-25)

- **Saul escapes from Damascus**
  - Saul is strengthened and becomes more bold
  - Although the apostle studied under Gamaliel, he needed to know the basics of Christianity
  - Previously, he spent some time with the disciples

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE JEWS (ACTS 9:20-25)

- **Saul escapes from Damascus**
  - The religious leaders plot to kill Saul
  - However, Saul knew about the plot
  - The leaders watched the gates day and night in order to kill him
  - The disciples lowered Saul in a basket and he escaped

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE SAINTS (ACTS 9:26-31)

- **Saul attempts to join the disciples**
- **Saul preaches boldly**
- **Saul leaves for Tarsus**

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE SAINTS (ACTS 9:26-31)

- **Saul attempts to join the disciples**
  - **The disciples were fearful of Saul**
  - **They did not believe that Saul had a genuine conversion**
  - **Barnabas sponsored Saul before the disciples in Jerusalem**

# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE SAINTS (ACTS 9:26-31)

- **Saul preaches boldly**
  - Barnabas testifies that Saul preached boldly in the name of Jesus
  - Saul later disputes with the Hellenists
  - They later sought to kill Saul
  - The disciples were very concerned regarding Saul



# SAUL ENCOUNTERS THE SAINTS (ACTS 9:26-31)

- **Saul leaves for Tarsus**
  - The disciples take Saul down to Caesarea and send him off to Tarsus
  - “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”

# OUTLINE

- **Saul Encounters Jesus- v 1-9**
- **Saul Encounters Ananias- v 10-19**
- **Saul Encounters the Jews- v 20-25**
- **Saul Encounters the Saints- v 26-31**

# CONCLUSION

- **Saul's conversion and transformation is one of the most amazing stories of the Bible**
- **The persecutor becomes the persecuted one for Christ and His cause**
- **Let's pray!**

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