

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

II THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN JUDEA AND SAMARIA Acts 8-12

LESSON 8 - The Damascus Road - Acts 9:1 - 31

KEY VERSE

But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he [Saul] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel (Acts 9:15).

PONDER¹

READ Acts 9:1-31.

WRITE the *word, phrase, or verse* that spoke to you the most. Explain. _____

SAUL'S CONVERSION

READ Acts 9:1-19.

1. What was Saul² doing against the Lord's disciples (vv. 1, 2)? _____

³

2. What happened to Saul as he neared Damascus⁴ (vv. 3, 4)? _____

3. How did Saul immediately respond to the Voice (v. 5)? _____

Who was Saul really persecuting? _____

¹ PONDER: think about and consider carefully God's spiritual truths as revealed in the Word of God.

² Saul: the Apostle Paul's name before his conversion.

³ the Way: the first title for the new believers in Christ (see John 14:6).

⁴ Damascus: "the Pearl of the East"; oldest city in the world in Syria with a continuous history.

4. Trembling and astonished, what did Saul ask the Lord (v. 6)? _____

What did Jesus tell him to do? _____

5. What did the men traveling with Saul experience and witness about him (vv. 7-9)? _____

NOTE: How differently Saul entered Damascus than was his intention when he started out; life certainly changes when God intervenes.

PERSONAL

Do you need a Divine intervention from the Lord? Explain. _____

Is there someone you need to pray for to have a Damascus Road experience with the Lord? Explain.

6. Who did the Lord call and how did He address him (v. 10)? _____

What was Ananias' response? _____

7. What did the Lord direct and reveal to Ananias (vv. 11, 12)? _____

⁵ the street called Straight: the street that went from one end of the city of Damascus to the other.

8. What reports were circulating among the disciples in Damascus concerning Saul (vv. 13, 14)? _____

PERSONAL

Do you know “religious” people that persecute the servants of the Lord? _____

Have you ever done so? Explain _____

9. What did the Lord command His servant Ananias to do? Why (vv. 15, 16)? _____

10. Despite Ananias’ fears, he obeyed. Being filled with the Holy Spirit, he placed his hands on Saul. How did Ananias address him? What did Ananias speak to him (v. 17)?

11. What did the Lord immediately do in the life of Saul (v. 18a)? _____

12. How did Saul respond (vv. 18b, 19a)? _____

PERSONAL

EXPLAIN how you received your spiritual sight when the scales of darkness fell and you received the Holy Spirit.

SAUL IN DAMASCUS AND JERUSALEM

READ Acts 9:19-22.

1. Who did Saul first spend some time with in Damascus (vv. 19b, 20)? _____

What did he then begin to do? _____

2. Why were Saul's listeners astonished (v. 21)? _____

3. What effect did the empowering of the Holy Spirit have upon Saul's life (v. 22)? _____

LOOK DEEPER

What does the power of the Holy Spirit enable the Christian to do?

Acts 1:8 _____

Acts 4:31 _____

I Corinthians 2:4 _____

Ephesians 3:16 _____

THE PLOT TO KILL SAUL

READ Acts 9:23-31.

1. How were the Jews⁶ conspiring to kill Saul because of his conversion to Christianity (Acts 9:23-25)? _____

How did the disciples rescue Saul from death? _____

2. Why did the disciples in Jerusalem not receive him (v. 26)? _____

⁶ Jews: religious leaders, former peers of Saul, who rejected Christ.

3. How did Barnabas⁷ convince the Apostles to receive Saul as a true disciple of Christ (v. 27)? _____

4. What did Saul do as he stayed with the disciples and moved freely in Jerusalem (vv. 28, 29)? _____

How did the Hellenists⁸ respond to Saul? _____

5. How did the brethren respond to the threat (v. 30)? _____

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LOOK DEEPER

What did Christ teach concerning the call to discipleship, its' cost and reward?

COST

REWARD

Mark 8:34-38

Mark 10:29-31

⁷ Barnabas: a true believer who the disciples named "Son of Encouragement" (see Acts 4:36).

⁸ Hellenists: Jews who adopted the Greek culture and language.

⁹ Caesarea: Roman capital of Judea in the time of Christ and Paul; located by the sea, a port city 32 miles north of Joppa.

¹⁰ Tarsus: the birthplace of Saul; 300 miles north of Jerusalem.

COST

REWARD

Luke 14:25-27

11

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

6. After Saul was shipped off to Tarsus, what happened to the Church in Judea¹², Galilee¹³, and Samaria¹⁴ (v. 31)?

WRITE out the KEY VERSE. _____

*And they continued steadfastly
in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
Acts 2:42*

¹¹ hate: love less; giving Christ first place.

¹² Judea: the southern division of the land of Israel.

¹³ Galilee: Roman province of Palestine in northern Israel during the time of Jesus; extended from Mt. Hermon to the ranges of Carmel and Gilboa; between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River.

¹⁴ Samaria: region between Judea and Galilee; inhabited by Jews intermarried with foreigners.

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