

Week 9

Acts 9:1-31

Pray

Read: Acts 9:1-19a

1. In verses 1-2, Luke reintroduces a person named Saul (cf. Acts 8:1; 8:3). In light of the story of Acts, what is so significant about Saul and his conversion?

2. In verses 3-5, the risen Christ speaks to Saul.

- What's significant about Saul's use of "Lord" in verse 5?
- What's so significant about Jesus' words in verse 4-5?

>> Application & Reflection: In this scene, Luke shows us an encounter between Saul and the Lord. What does this teach us about the relationship between the church and Christ? What does this teach us about those who oppose the church?

3. In verses 3-19a, Luke details the events of Saul's conversion. What does God do in this event? How does Saul's transformation reflect God's grace and sovereignty?

>> Application & Reflection: In this scene, Luke shows us God's power to resolve a great threat to the church and raise up a new leader of the mission to the ends of the earth. It's a picture of divine grace transforming even the life of a persecutor. How might Saul's conversion encourage us today about God and the gospel?

>> Application & Reflection: In this scene, Luke focuses on Saul's conversion. For Saul, it was instant and dramatic; for others, especially those growing up in a Christian context, it might be very gradual. Saul's experience with a direct appearance of the Lord is the exception, but many do experience a kind of instant transformation where God opens the heart to receive the gospel. Take some time to encourage one another by briefly sharing your conversion stories.

Read: Acts 9:19b-31

4. In verse 20, Luke says that Saul began to preach that “Jesus is the Son of God”. What did this mean?

5. In verses 19b-25, Luke presents different reactions to Saul and his preaching. How do the people of Damascus react? What does this say about what God has done in Saul and done for the church?

6. After fleeing serious opposition in Damascus, Saul travels to Jerusalem. In verses 26-28, Luke records the Jerusalem believer’s reaction to Saul. How is Saul perceived and received?

7. In verse 31, Luke provides a closing word of what’s happened since his last summary Acts 8:1-3. What is the vibe of Luke’s summary here? What is the result of everything God has done? What events have led to this period of peace for the church?

>> Application & Reflection: In this scene, Luke shows us how God’s work in the Eunuch and in the Persecutor (Saul) has brought about the growth and peace of the church. What do these events teach us about the life of the church? How might this prepare us/challenge us as we live in an increasingly hostile world?

Pray