

Sermon Discussion Questions for January 10, 2021.

Acts 9:1-19

1 Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

5 Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!" "Yes, Lord," he answered.

11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Questions

1. For Saul, the biggest barrier for him to receive God's grace is his own sense of righteousness and good works. How did God reveal to Saul his sinfulness and his need for God's grace? In your spiritual journey before you became a Christian, what was your greatest barrier and how did God reveal His grace to you?
2. God's grace brought Ananias into Saul's life to guide him into relationship with Jesus. Who is someone that God has brought into your life that help you become a Christian? Who is God bringing into your life now to walk along side of you in your Christian growth? Is God calling you, as He did with Ananias, to GO to someone to help open their eyes to message of the gospel and reality of God's love for them?
3. God's Grace gave Saul a new life and a new mission. In what way did Jesus redeemed your past sin and shame into a testimony of something beautiful? Like Saul, as a Christian we are also chosen instrument to carry Jesus' name. What have you been called to do in His name?