

Sermon Discussion (8/24/2025)

The church is growing. The more it grows the more it threatens the power structure in place. The church is being scattered by leaders among the Jews. The High Priest, Sanhedrin and Jewish church officials have gone as far as murder in their effort to destroy the movement started by Jesus.

Title: Saving People from Themselves

The Main Question: What is Saul being saved from?

Points to Consider

1. He is being saved from his pride.
2. He is being saved from his power.
3. He is being saved from permission.
4. He is being saved from his plan.

Scripture References:

Acts 9:1–9 NIV

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.

Application Questions

- What did Jesus save you from?

Love God / Invitation / Relationship

We experience the love of God when we invite Him into our lives.

- Read [Acts 9:1-9](#).
- Where is the invitation to love God in this passage?
- The invitation of God is easy to see. Could Saul have rejected it?
- Do people reject God's invitation even when they are in difficult circumstances?

Find Freedom / Learning / Clarity

Freedom is found when we learn a new way to think.

- In this passage God is teaching Saul to think differently. How would you describe Saul's bondage?
- What is his freedom going to look like?
- What does it mean to say that the Kingdom of God is not of this world?

See God / Prayer / Affirmation

It is much easier for us to "see" God when we are communicating with God. Prayer is how we communicate with God.

- Do you think Saul has been praying to God?
- How is God communicating with Saul?
- Why does He do this?

Experience Healing / Serve Others / Opportunities

The brokenness in our hearts begins to heal as we serve other people.

- What is Saul's plan for soothing his brokenness?
- What is God's plan for healing Saul's brokenness?
- Do you have a similar situation to this?

Discover Joy / Gratitude / Community

The more grateful we are the more joy we feel.

- Sometimes joy is something we hope for in the future, but the present contains fear and confusion. Why is this the way it must be?
- What must come before joy?
- Why is Saul not grateful now?