

# Jesus Still Saves

## Acts Chapter 9

Act 9:1 **1) Jesus Saves Saul** vs 1-9

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest,

Act 9:2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

- Saul was the point of authority for the stoning of Stephen.
- Saul has an intense goal to rid the earth of this Jesus sect.
  - Acts 26:11 *"And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities."*
  - Acts 22:4 *"And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women."*
- Saul acquired from the high priest documents that gave Saul authority to arrest these Jesus/Messiah people in Damascus.
  - Damascus was a 6 day journey or 130 miles to the north of Jerusalem. This was how committed he was to stopping this blasphemous sect.
  - Damascus is one of the oldest cities on earth. Existed in Abraham's time. (Gen 15:2 Eliezer his servant was from Damascus.)
  - A large Jewish population and many synagogues.
- The Way.
  - Mentioned Acts 16:7; Acts 18:25; Acts 18:26; Acts 19:9; Acts 19:23; Acts 22:4;
  - Way = a travelers road, a journey, a course of conduct.
  - Not a moment or a fixed time that occurred in the past
  - The Way is not a religious cult formed in 1942 by Victor Wierwille
  - This teaches us that it is a continual walk and movement. It is not an event done in the past but the Way is a commitment to a new manner of life. A commitment to a new course of conduct.

Act 9:3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

Act 9:4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"

- Saul fell to the ground because of the light. The voice is seemingly filled with compassion, not an angry, teeth gritting scolding.
- Saul here is introduced to the doctrine of the "Body of Christ"
- Saul in persecuting the church was actually persecuting Jesus.
  - COLOSSIANS 1:24 *"I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,"*
  - 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 *"Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually."*
  - EPHESIANS 5:30 *"For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones."*
  - ROMANS 12:4-8 *"For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."*
  - EPHESIANS 4:14-16 *"we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head -- Christ -- from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*
  - EPHESIANS 1:23 *"And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church which is his body, the fulness of him who fills everything in every way"*

"the reply of Saint Joan of Arc to her judges: "About Jesus Christ and the Church, I simply know they're just one thing, and we shouldn't complicate the matter.""

- The Church does not physically become Christ. We become representatives to the world of who Christ is. Very much like the bread in communion does not become the actual body of Christ but is a point of contact to remember Him

Act 9:5 **And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He {said,} "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting,**

- Saul wants to know who this is he is persecuting. He knows whoever it is has great power.
- Saul hears that name. The name that he is driven to eliminate from his land. That name that he felt was blasphemous to his religion.
  - Paul said of himself Acts 26:9 to King Agrippa "*I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth*"
- It is also that name for which man will receive salvation. The revelation that came to Saul in an instant affected the rest of his life. Not only did he receive salvation that name became one of his most cherished possessions.
  - Romans 10:13 "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"
  - 1 Corinthians 6:11 "*ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*"
  - Philippians 2:9 "*Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:*"
  - Philippians 2:10 "*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth;*"

#### KJV vs Modern Translations

- The KJV add a line here in verse 5 & 6 that is not in the modern translations. It reads:
- "*[it is] hard for thee to kick against the pricks.*" (vs 5)
  - Acts 26: 14
  - The pricks or goad are those long sticks that have a pointed end to them. The master would motivate and direct the oxen by jabbing the oxen.
  - Jesus told Saul it was hard for him to kick against them. Jesus was goading Saul and he wasn't responding.
  - Saul was resisting the motivation and direction of the Lord .
  -
- "*And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?*" (vs6)
  - Acts 22:10
  - This fits with verse 6 where Jesus answers this question
  - People have many questions for God. "Will War ever cease?" "Why is there suffering in the world?"
  - This is the question we all should ask of Jesus "**What will you have me do?**"

Though it may have been scribes that added these two verses in chapter 9, it doesn't mean that it did not happen. Acts 22 and 26 show that these did happen. In looking at all three passages you can see a fuller picture of what has happened.

Act 9:6 **but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do."**

Act 9:7 **The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.**

- Acts 22:9 says that they didn't understand the voice

Act 9:8 **Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.**

Act 9:9 **And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.**

- This is where ministry begins.
  - New Birth (A New Heart and regenerated soul is a prerequisite)
  - Eye open (Knowing Who is Lord, Knowing something is ahead, but)
  - Not seeing anything. (Needing the Lord's instruction)
  - Being led by the hand of others (Humility)

Act 9:10 **2) Jesus Sends Ananias to Saul** vs 10-22

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

- Ananias = "Grace of God"
  - Not to be confused with the man with the same name in Acts 5 who lied and died.
  - Not to be confused with the high priest in Acts 23 who had Paul slapped.
  - Acts 22:12 " *And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt [there],*"
    - 1) A Disciple (Acts 9:10)
    - 2) Devout according to the law
    - 3) Good Reputation
  - Ananias has this one job and no longer mentioned except in association to this event.

Act 9:11 And the Lord {said} to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,

Act 9:12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight."

- The Lord came to Ananias in a vision and told him to "Get Up" and "GO"
- Think of the words that would create difficulty for Ananias
  - 1) Judas - A Betrayer
  - 2) Saul of Tarsus - A Persecuting Murderer of Believers
- Saul has
  - 1) Been praying probably for the first time in his life.
  - 2) Has seen a vision of Ananias coming to him to lay hands on him.

Act 9:13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem;

Act 9:14 and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

- Ananias' objection sounds as though he is letting Jesus in on some information that He may not know about.
- It is interesting that Ananias is aware of the persecution that was coming his way.

Act 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

Act 9:16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

- Saul is commissioned to take JESUS NAME to the Gentiles, Kings, and Israel.
- "To Bear My Name" and again "for My Name's Sake" challenges us "Does my life bear "Jesus Name" before all people or Does my life profane "Jesus Name before people?"
- Jesus will show "how much he must suffer" **2 Corinthians 11:19-28** " *For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing ye [yourselves] are wise. For ye suffer, if a man bring you into bondage, if a man devour [you], if a man take [of you], if a man exalt himself, if a man smite you on the face. I speak as concerning reproach, as though we had been weak. Howbeit whereinsoever any is bold, (I speak foolishly,) I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? so [am] I. Are they Israelites? so [am] I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so [am] I. Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I [am] more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty [stripes] save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; [in] journeyings often, [in] perils of waters, [in] perils of robbers, [in] perils by [mine own] countrymen, [in] perils by the heathen, [in] perils in the city, [in] perils in the wilderness, [in] perils in the sea, [in] perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches."*

Act 9:17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

- Ananias greets Saul as a brother with grace and as a companion.
- Ananias' first words were to introduce the Lord Jesus. "Brother Saul - The Lord Jesus"

Act 9:18 And **immediately** there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;  
Act 9:19 and he took food and was strengthened.  
Act 9:20 and **immediately** he {began} to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

- Immediately 2x - There wasn't a long period of waiting by the Lord or by Saul
- Healing & Proclaiming

Act 9:21 All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, "Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and {who} had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?"

Act 9:22 But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived at Damascus by proving that this {Jesus} is the Christ.

- Following the example of the people he encountered Saul:
  - (Stephen) Boldly Spoke that Jesus **IS** the Messiah (not was)
  - (Ananias) Immediately he began to proclaim Jesus (Acts 22 Ananias says to Saul)
- Acts 22:14-16 "And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldst know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldst hear the voice of his mouth. For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
- WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Act 9:23 **3) Jesus Sends Barnabas to Help Saul** vs 23-31

When many days had elapsed, the Jews plotted together to do away with him,

- The table has turned - Saul plotted against the believers; Now, the Jews plot against him.
- Remember when you and I mocked and ridiculed Christians. The table has turned.
- "When Many Days" - How long was Saul in Damascus?
- Galatians 1:14-18 "And profited in the Jews' religion above many my equals in mine own nation, being more exceedingly zealous of the traditions of my fathers. But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called [me] by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days."
- Led There, 3 Days Praying, Long enough to preach in the synagogues,
- From Galatians, Saul went to Arabia returned to Damascus.
- Most scholars believe Saul was in Arabia for 3 years.

Act 9:24 but their plot became known to Saul. They were also watching the gates day and night so that they might put him to death;

Act 9:25 but his disciples took him by night and let him down through {an opening in} the wall, lowering him in a large basket.

- The beginning of ministry
  - Praying alone (vs 11)
  - Plotted Against (vs 23)
  - Studying Alone (Gal 1:16)
  - Seeming Unfulfilled (vs 15 Gentiles, Kings, Israel)
  - Humble (vs 25 In a basket)
  - Rejected (vs 26)

Act 9:26 When he came to Jerusalem, he was trying to associate with the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he was a disciple.

- The disciples had experienced Saul's wrath. They couldn't believe redemption for him.

Act 9:27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

Act 9:28 And he was with them, moving about freely in Jerusalem, speaking out boldly in the name of the Lord.

- Barnabus = (Son of Encouragement)
  - This Joseph was a Levite. Acts 4:36 The church had received persecution from the religious leaders and here is a Levite who became a believer.
  - Acts 6:7 "And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."
  - The Apostles called him Barnabas (Son of Encouragement)
  - Mentioned 25 x in Acts 5 x in the Epistles
    - a) Goes to Paul and encourages him in ministry
    - b) Barnabus before Paul but allows Paul to develop to then lead
    - c) Keeps confidence in John Mark when he had failed so much so he stands up to Paul
    - d) He sells land and gives money to the church for others need.
- Barnabus spoke for Saul to the Apostles. Gave his confidence in Saul to others.
- Then Saul moved freely with the disciples.
- Spent 15 days with Peter (Gal 1:18) Peter w/ Experience Paul w/ Doctrine What a conversation!
- Then with James (Gal 1:19) ½ brother of Jesus Learning what it was to grow up with the Lord.

Act 9:29 And he was talking and arguing with the Hellenistic {Jews;} but they were attempting to put him to death.

- Picking up Stephen's Ministry
- Same results

Act 9:30 But when the brethren learned {of it,} they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus.

Act 9:31 So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase.

- Saul sent to Tarsus for 8 years
  - Taught in synagogues
  - Developed his Theology

3 years in Arabia 8 years in Tarsus God's timing to prepare.

- The Church experiences
  - peace
  - being built up
  - Awe of the Lord
  - Comfort
  - Increase

Act 9:32 **4) Jesus Heals Aeneas Through Peter** vs 32-35 (chs.9b-12 is Peter 13-28 is Paul)

Lydda  
Aeneas  
Now as Peter was traveling through all {those regions,} he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.

- It seemed that the Apostles were pretty much staying in Jerusalem. (with the exception of Peter and John visiting Samaria where Philip went in chapter 8)
- But he went back to Jerusalem. Saul visited them there (Gal 1 Saul spent 15 days with Peter) Perhaps Saul, who was shown that he would take the message to the Gentiles challenged Peter to get busy and go to Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth.
- Acts 5:16 "There came also a multitude [out] of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one." People from surrounding towns were coming to the Apostles. But here we see a change. The Apostles (Peter) is traveling to the surrounding towns.

- Peter went to Lydda - 20 - 25 miles from Jerusalem.
- Christianity is more than a means of “getting to heaven” and it is more than a “system of doctrine”; it is also a manifestation of divine life in a world of sin and wretchedness. It is God’s grace on the heart of His people to share their possessions to supply others’ needs. (H.A. Ironside)

Act 9:33 There he found a man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed.

Act 9:34 Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed." Immediately he got up.

Act 9:35 And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

- There was a man who had been paralyzed for 8 years. In the KJV it refers the paralysis as a palsy. This was some disease he had acquired as an adult. And a disease rather than an accident resulting in paralysis.
- Peter came across him. We cannot tell from the passage if this man was a believer before the healing occurred. Yet Peter was used to bring healing to him.
- “Jesus Christ Heals You” - The strength in this passage is that Peter makes it very clear that Peter does not do any healing or have the power to heal. He is very clear that it is Jesus Christ who heals.
  - No laying on of hands
  - Peter seeing something and announces that “RIGHT NOW” Jesus is healing you.
  - John 5:2-9 Jesus heals at the pool of Bethesda a crippled man, makes him whole a tells him to take up his bed.
- Aeneas was well known and two locations hear of his healing. The town of Lydda and the plains of Sharon.
- Aeneas and his plight must have been well known. Those who saw him healed turned to the Lord.

Act 9:36  
Joppa  
Tabitha

## 5) Jesus Heals Dorcas Through Peter vs 36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated {in Greek} is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.

- 10 miles to the sea from Lydda was Joppa
  - Joppa was where the cedars of Lebanon were shipped to then be transported by land to Jerusalem, approx. 30miles away. (2 Chron 2:16 & Ezra 3:7)
  - Joppa was the port from where Jonah departed by ship to Tarshish (Jonah 1:3)
- In Joppa was a disciple named Tabitha
  - A Woman A Disciple
  - Abounding, not just a little here and there; More than others; More than expected
  - Abounding in Kindness KJV=Good Works
  - Abounding in Charity KJV=Almsgiving
  - Continually
    - \* No break; rest; the amazement is that her pouring out energizes her to do it again
    - \* She recognizes the needs that is amazingly around all the time
    - \* “There is not a lack of ministry to do; but there is a lack of ministers”
  - James 2:15-16 “If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be [ye] warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what [doth it] profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”
  - H.A. Ironside once said “Anyone whose chief concern is the salvation of his *OWN* soul hasn’t got a soul worth saving”
  - We see in Dorcas an “OTHERS” mentality.

Act 9:37 And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.

- The Righteous among us are not immune to sickness and death
- 10 out of 10 people will die.

Act 9:38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, "Do not delay in coming to us."

- The saints sent 2 men for Peter hearing he was near by in Joppa. (10 miles there & back - 24 hrs)

Act 9:39 So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

Act 9:40 But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

Act 9:41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

- Compare Mark 5:35-43 with this account in Peter's encounter.
- Mark 5 Peter was in training for this moment in his life.
- One great difference in the 2 accounts is that Peter knelt down and prayed. Seeking direction.

PETER (Acts 9)

vs. 38 Was Sent for  
vs. 40 Sent out the mourners  
vs. 41 Took her by the hand  
vs. 40 He said to her Tabitha Arise

JESUS (Mark 5)

vs. 22+23 Was Sent for  
vs. 40 Put out the mourners  
vs. 41 Took her by the hand  
vs. 41 Jesus said Talitha Cumi  
(Little Girl Arise)

- Peter didn't raise people from the dead where ever he went.
- This again was a unique experience. Some how Peter knew this healing was to be done.
- When It was realized this needed to be done, Peter took his direction from Jesus. It was not a gift that he possessed and that he could manifest this gift any way he wanted.

Act 9:42 It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

- What was known all over Joppa was that the Lord healed Tabitha and people believed in the Lord.
- Peter was not exalted in Joppa
- People raised from the dead experienced something to me has a sad element to a great miracle. Being raised from the dead, alive in this world is to be absent from the Lord. To be absent from this world is to be present with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
- **Christine Bean vs Paul Brown** I have seen someone who was dead be raised (Christine) I have seen someone greatly loved remain with the Lord after much prayer. (Paul)
- A Couple of extra thoughts
  - How is your Christianity? Will people be praying for your resurrection because of how much you have ministered to them or will they be relieved at your parting.
  - Do you believe anything as strongly as Peter did? To believe the leading of the Lord for healing and raising the dead?
  - Where was Jesus in Chapter 9?  
Saves Saul, Sends Ananias & Barnibus, Sends Peter, Heals Aeneas, A present real-time example for Peter in raising Dorcas.

Act 9:43 And Peter stayed many days in Joppa with a tanner {named} Simon.

- This is a teaser for Chapter 10
- Tanners were considered unclean - Peter stayed with him in Joppa.

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