

Acts – 9/13/26

Read

Read Acts 9:1-19 and consider what lessons the Holy Spirit intends us to learn.

Examine

- Why might it be significant that Jesus told Saul he was persecuting *him*, when we're told Saul was specifically "breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord" (v.1)? What does this reveal about the relationship between Jesus and the church?
- This passage shows how the early church's greatest threat at the time was turned around by Jesus. What does this teach about God and his plan in the world? What does this teach about the church and its mission? What does it teach about conversion?
- What connections do you see in this text to other areas in Scripture, especially in the Old Testament? How do these connections help us understand the passage's meaning?
- God certainly didn't *need* Ananias to be involved in Saul's conversion. Why might he have included Ananias? What might this demonstrate about the relationship between God's sovereignty and human responsibility?
- Why does God tie his use of Saul as an instrument of mission to suffering (v.15-16)? Is Saul's suffering a punishment from God for his persecution of the church? Why or why not?

Apply

- As seen in v.2, an early name for Christianity was "the Way." What benefit might there be in viewing Christianity as "the Way" today?
- Saul tried to exterminate Christianity, thinking that he was being faithful to God by destroying a false religion. Can you think of any examples today of people doing things for God that actually are in opposition of him and his plan?
- Are there any people in your life you think are too far from God to be saved? How does Saul's conversion shape your perspective toward evangelism? How does it encourage you to pray?
- What could it look like to live like Ananias?
- God calls Saul a "chosen instrument." How would your everyday life change if you viewed yourself as specifically chosen by God to carry his name to your family, neighborhood, workplace, etc.?

Pray

Take time to praise God for who He is, confess sins, and/or make requests based on this passage.