

Acts 9:19-43

19-21 What a transformation! From wanting to imprison anyone who believed in the Rabbi Yeshua to preaching that He is the Son of God. Galatians 1:23-24 This is the instant kind of epiphany I spoke of last Sunday. (1/6/08) 1Corinthians 9:16

Son of God – John 10:31-36, Psalm 2:7

22 The more he walked down this path, the more he saw the Scriptures pointing to Jesus as the Messiah. His arguments grew in the power to convict and convince. Luke 21:15; Acts 28:23 His knowledge of the Scriptures is now used to convince other Jews.

23-25 Galatians 1:17-19 Three years later - The over-the-wall-in-a-basket trick. 2Corinthians 11:32 Why did they become angry enough to want to kill him? This is just the first of many attempts to take his life. Acts 22:21-23 It follows the prediction of the Lord in verse 16 of this chapter. He will reap what he has sown. Now he is facing the persecution he dished out.

26 Put yourself in their shoes. Even though they may have prayed for his conversion, it would still be hard to believe. To welcome him may be to risk your life. What would you have done? Matthew 10:17

27 The testimony that Barnabas brought to them of Saul's conversion and boldness in preaching Jesus as Messiah convinced them it was actually true.

28 –29 This reminds of Stephen's powerful witness in Acts 6:9-10. His three years in Arabia and Damascus had only strengthened his conviction and knowledge of the Scriptures pointing to Jesus as Messiah.

30-31 Saul had stirred up a hornets' nest, but when he left, the church had a time of peace and growth. Sometimes confrontation is most effective, and at other times, to back off and let it soak in can be even more fruitful. (Acts 22:17-21) Notice that church is singular. What kind of time are we in?

32-35 Peter ministers to individuals: In Lydda, (Current day Tel Aviv) Jesus healed a man who had been paralyzed for 8 years. The fruit of the miracle was that ALL the people of Lydda and the Plain of Sharon turned (*epistrepho* - to turn around) to the Lord.

36-43 On of the sisters in a nearby town died (Only place the feminine form of disciple is used). Her name means Gazelle. She was a seamstress who had a heart to help the poor. Proverbs 31:20 Her body was washed and prepared for burial when Peter called to her and she arose. Verse 42 tells us of the fruit from this miracle, that many believed in the Lord. Peter continued his ministry out of Simon the tanner's house. Tanning was an unclean occupation. Peter had to deal with his prejudice toward half Jews, Samaritans, and then occupations like tax collectors and tanners, and soon even Gentiles. One by one, God is changing his attitudes about who Jesus has come to save. Is there someone or group you think is outside of the love of God?