

# Sermon Notes

## Saul to Paul: A Good Hope Vision Series Part 2

### September 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022

- **Saul to Paul: A Good Hope Vision Series**
- Last time we got to know an angry young man. He's still angry...however...VISION STATEMENT.
  - o Let's see what a real relationship with the Living God does for angry young Saul. (**Acts 8:1-3**)
  - o I believe Saul was wrong but honest. That he honestly wanted to do the right thing.
    - Ever find out you are wrong? How you handle that will change the trajectory of your life.
- **Acts 9:1-9**
  - o Saul was on a mission...but it was a flawed mission.
    - Jesus kicks down the door. (**verses 3-6**)
    - Pretty short interaction! But, a real relationship with the Living God changed Saul.
    - This was a highly traumatic experience for Saul. (**verse 9**)
      - He was blinded, but his reality was shaken...
        - o He realized he was wrong...and really wrong...so he's processing this.
    - Interesting side note: Jesus seems to just leaves Saul broken to process for days.
      - Then, the Lord sends a nobody to minister to Saul...
- **Acts 9:10-19**
  - o How bad of a guy was Saul that Ananias would argue with an open vision from God!!!!
    - But Ananias was chosen by God for this, (**verse 12**) and he finally submits to God's plan.
  - o God calls people to step in to help other people.
    - This Ananias was a nobody. Never mentioned before or after in the Bible. Just this.
      - Not Peter, James, John, etc. Ananias.
        - o Who are you to step in and help someone else? A nobody like Ananias??
  - o Barnabas also helped young Saul. **Acts 9:26-30**
  - o Rise Up is a group effort. We need help from others and we need to help others. You changing will also involve relationships with other people where you receive both help and correction.
- Reach Out – Call to Action.
  - o Saul didn't need some vision statement to be stirred to action. He knew he had things to fix.
- **Acts 9:20-22**
  - o Saul turns a 180. He felt his failure and the violence he had perpetrated against God and His people.
  - o Saul got to it quickly!! But he also took a break (Arabia) for 3 years??? (**Galatians 1:17-18**)
    - We can see Saul's heart right away, but he describes it in **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**.
  - o Call to Action: Your life actually matters. You can make a difference if, like Ananias, you follow.
  - o I want you to be fully motivated AND fully at peace.
    - Notice **1 Cor 9:23**. Not "to earn my way" or "to make up for the past" or "escape judgement and hellfire" but, to share in the blessings of the Gospel.
    - Just one of fully motivated or fully at peace and you can have some problems.
      - Looking back, as a kid, I think I have one prevailing motivation: fear of failure.
        - o That's not the life God wants for you.
        - o God wants your life to matter, fully motivated, but fully at peace as well.
- Vision Statement again: Reach Up, Rise Up, Reach Out
- I believe we can make a difference, however...
  - o We may not be able to change our culture. Let's do our part and trust God...
  - o But, we can be an oasis.
    - Closing Scripture: **Acts 9:31**.
    - Paul's conversion changed the culture from persecution to peace and strength.
    - Let's pray to be able to do that for Good Hope and for our circles of influence.
- Get personal prayer by emailing [prayer@goodhope.ag](mailto:prayer@goodhope.ag).