

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

*Acts: The Church. Established. Empowered. Expanding - Acts 9:1-31 - A Ruthless Persecutor Turned Faithful Apostle- 12.08.2024*

1. Is there anything specific from this message that the Lord has impressed upon your heart?  
If so, what is it & how do you feel the Lord calling you to respond?
2. Have you ever entered into a situation where you had made your own plans only to discover the Lord had other plans for you?  
What was the situation and how did your plans differ from the Lord's plans for you?  
How did the Lord reveal that He had other plans for you?  
(i.e. maybe through something in His Word or it become apparent over time as things played out, or something else entirely?)  
How did you specifically see the Lord at work in that situation & what did you learn about the Lord and yourself through it?  
How does this relate to what we see in Acts 9:1-31, as it pertains to Saul's plans coming into Damascus & God's plans for him?
3. What happens to Saul when the Lord comes to him on the road to Damascus?  
How does this interaction lead to him losing his physical sight (for a time) but moving from spiritual blindness to seeing rightly?  
How does this change not only Saul's plans in Damascus, but his entire life and trajectory?  
How does your relationship with Jesus do the same thing; change your entire life and trajectory (eternally & temporally)?  
Do you ever feel like your past (or even present) sins & struggles make you ineffective or unusable to the Lord now?  
How does this narrative of God's work in Saul despite his past encourage you in your life as to who God can use?  
Read 2 Corinthians 5:17, Philippians 3:13-14, 1 Timothy 1:12-17 - all written by Saul (Paul) - how do these verses help us?
4. Read Acts 9:28-31; how do these verses show God's plans prevailing over man's plans (specifically Saul's) as revealed in Acts 9:1-2?  
According to verse 31, what is the result to the church after all that's taken place to this time?  
How do fear and comfort come together in this verse to reveal the formula by which the church to experiences multiplication?  
How can you grow to more consistently and sincerely walk in the fear of the Lord and comfort of the Holy Spirit?
5. Below are the "Today's Takeaways" from the sermon. Do any of these particularly encourage, convict, challenge, you, & if so, how?  
***Jesus turned Saul, a persecutor, into an evangelist!***  
*Our past sins don't determine our future in Jesus!*  
*God has chosen us in Jesus to live for His glory!*  
***Saul made his plans, but God directed His steps!***  
*No plans of man can stand against God's will!*  
*God's purposes prevail in every circumstance!*  
***How the Church walks will determine it's product!***  
*Walk in the fear of the Lord & comfort of the Holy Spirit!*  
*As we remain in Jesus, our lives produce fruit!*