

Who Is?

Two questions that we should all wrestle with.

Who is?

And What Happened?

What happened?

This is the one that looks at the facts that Christianity is not just some make believe story but there were events that actually happened.

Who is?

This is the one that will answer who is Jesus.

Acts 7

This story takes place months after Jesus was crucified.

Acts 7:58 NIV

...Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

Acts 8:1 NIV

And Saul approved of their killing him...

Followers of Christ scattered because of the persecution that broke out.

Acts 9:1 NIV

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples.

Acts 9:1-2 NIV

¹ He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

And yet what we have heard about Paul is not the fact that he was killing everyone but that he was the guy who spread Christianity all over.

He spread the gospel more than any other man that lived in his time.

What in the world happened?

Acts 9:3-4 NIV

³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

Then he asked the most important question any man or woman could ever ask.

Acts 9:5 NIV

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked...

Asking this question shrinks all of the other questions.

Here is what I want to get to...

- This battle is not between you and your ideas
- It is not between you and the church
- Or your parents
- Or your friends
- Or even your conscience

Is between you and the person of Jesus Christ because this is personal

- Who are you Lord?

Perhaps that would be the invitation to your heavenly Father to do inside of you what He has done to many people sitting around you today.

In this story we also see Paul tell it again and he adds a little more detail.

Acts 26:14 NIV

¹⁴ We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

Acts 9:6 NIV

⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

This is where we are introduced to the person who is supposed to Host Saul.

Acts 9:13-15 NIV

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." ¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

Acts 9:18-19 NIV

¹⁸ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, ¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength...

- On the road to Damascus it became extraordinarily personal.

Acts 9:20 NIV

²⁰ At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Acts 9:21-22 NIV

²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, "Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?" ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

When he gets to Jerusalem who do you think He wants to see?

Acts 9:26 NIV

²⁶ When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple.

Acts 9:28 NIV

²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

If there is a Jesus to know, isn't that the most important thing?

There is a road to Damascus for all of us.

Paul later would write

- **One day every knee will bow....**
- **He didn't say every question will be answered.**