

Damascus Road (Life Transformation) Acts 9:1-30

"Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen." Acts 8:1 (NLT)

"Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers." Acts 9:1 (NLT)

1) NO ONE is beyond God's grace.

"So he (Paul) went to the high priest. He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them – both men and women – back to Jerusalem in chains." Acts 9: 1b-2 (NLT)

"For the Son of Man came to seek and save the those who are lost." Luke 19:10 (NLT)

[Paul] "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me as a prime example of His great patience with even the worst sinners." 1 Timothy 15b-16 (NLT)

- Who have I quietly given up praying for?
- Who should I invite to church this week?

2) Genuine SALVATION produces life transformation.

"Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. And immediately he began preaching about Jesus . . . All who heard him were amazed" Acts 9:19b-21a (NLT)

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone, a new life has begun." 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT)

- How has my character changed since becoming a Christian?
- How has my character changed lately?

3) God can REDEEM YOUR PAST and use you for His glory.

"Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews". Acts 9:28 (NLT)

"I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin – a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience of the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church." Philippians 3:5-6a (NLT)

- Am I limiting how God may want to use me in ministry?
- How could I use past mistakes as a ministry to others?