

Persecutor to Preacher - Sermon 6.21.26

June 17, 2026

UNSTOPPABLE

THE BOOK OF ACTS

Leo Loughmiller • Persecutor to Preacher • June 21, 2026

Main Idea: No one is beyond the reach of God's grace.

1. Let Jesus interrupt the road you think is right.

"But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest." (Acts 9:1, ESV)

"I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth." (Acts 26:9, ESV)

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death." (Proverbs 14:12, ESV)

You can be sincere and still be sincerely wrong.

2. Let Jesus redirect what you thought defined you.

"Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him... 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'... 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'" (Acts 9:3-6, ESV)

Grace doesn't just forgive where you have been; grace redirects where you are going.

"But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose... I am sending you to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light..." (Acts 26:16-18, ESV)

3. Don't settle for religion when Jesus offers a new heart.

"Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem." (Acts 9:13, ESV)

"Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel." (Acts 9:15, ESV)

"So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus... has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes... Then he rose and was baptized." (Acts 9:17-18, ESV)

"And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'" (Acts 9:20, ESV)

Religion can polish behavior, but only Jesus can resurrect the heart.

"And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you." (Ezekiel 36:26a, ESV)

4. Practice grace toward people God may still be changing.

"And when he had come to Jerusalem, he attempted to join the disciples. And they were all afraid of him... But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles..." (Acts 9:26-27, ESV)

Don't let someone's worst chapter be the only chapter you're willing to read.

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9, ESV)

If grace can reach Saul, grace can reach anyone.