



“Encounters Where Everything Changes”

TRANSFORMING TRUTH

Trends deceive. Traditions enslave. God's Truth transforms.

From the Series,
“Encounters”

Acts 9:3-19

Preached Sunday AM 7/20/14

Meadow Baptist Church

1. The Testimony Of A Religious Terrorist (Acts 8, 9 & 26)

- a. Saul was committed to destroying Christ's mission (Acts 8:1-3)

“1 And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. 3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.”

- b. Saul was ruining the lives of Christians (Acts 9:1-2)

“1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.”

- c. Saul became Paul & later testified about his former life (Acts 26:9-12)

“9 I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. 11 And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities. 12 “In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.”

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2. The Divine Intervention & Intense Encounter (Acts 9:3-9)

a. Both Christ & Saul had their agendas (3-4)

"Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. 4 And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

b. The supernatural vetoed the natural (5-7)

"5 And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6 But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." 7 The men who were traveling with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one."

c. The encounter penetrated Saul to his core (8-9)

"8 Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9 And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank."

3. The Sovereign Enlistment To A Challenging Assignment (Acts 9:10-19)

a. A kinder, gentler encounter (10-12)

*"Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." 11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." **Clear, communicative and authoritative***

b. An uncomfortable, testing encounter (13-16)

*"But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." **Ananias only had a partial glimpse while Christ operated & instructed from the full picture... thus his hesitancy***

There are times when what we hear, see, think or feel will not seem to be an easy fit with what God is saying to you. Whom will we obey?

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c. Ananias submitted his emotions & will to Christ (17)

"So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

d. Saul's encounter led to a new vision & fresh start (18-19)

"18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus."