

ACTS 9 PART II

Main Point: What was the Cost of Your Salvation?

*7 I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8 Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ
Philippians 3:7-8*

Digging Deeper

It's not a far stretch to assume that Paul (Saul) had a great life prior to his conversion to Christianity. He was a well-respected pharisee, a teacher of the law, and lived a righteous life. In order to truly surrender his life to Christ he not only had to give that up, but he also put a bounty on his head. The people that he thought of as friends and colleagues now wanted him dead. It seemed like everywhere he went became a warzone as he promoted the name of Christ. Reminding us to count the cost of becoming his disciple, Jesus said, "31 **“Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counselors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? 32 And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. 33 So you cannot become my disciple without giving up everything you own.”** Lk 14:31–33. What did your salvation cost you? What SHOULD your salvation cost you? And what can you surrender to Him today?

Read through Acts 9 again, and list and evaluate what it cost Paul to follow Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. What did your salvation cost you? Think of what you lost to gain Christ. What's your story?
2. Saul was well-trained in the old testament scriptures before his transformation. What did God train you in prior to joining his kingdom? What skills do you bring as a citizen? What can you do to use those skills now?
3. Jesus reminds us to pick up our cross daily. This means each day we surrender to Him. What does this mean in your life? How do you surrender daily and what can you surrender to Him today?
4. Saul had people that vouched for his character when the world and even the church stood against him. Who is vouching for you? Who can see the fruit of your transformation?
5. Saul had friends turn against him, and try to murder him. How do we love the 'friends' in our lives that have turned against us?