

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of February 2, 2014

This Week's Focus: Because of his preaching that Jesus is the Son of God and the Messiah, Saul, the hunter and persecutor, becomes the hunted and the persecuted.

This Week's Text: Acts 9:19b-31

"Not that he had never fasted and prayed before... But now through Jesus and his cross Saul had been reconciled to God, and consequently enjoyed a new and immediate access to the Father... What was the content of his prayers? We can guess that he prayed for the forgiveness of all his sins, especially his self-righteousness... for wisdom to know what God wanted him to do now... No doubt also his prayers included worship, as he poured out his soul in praise that God should have had mercy on him." **John Stott**

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high. **Hebrews 1:1-3**

Related Texts: Psalm 2:7; John 3:16; Luke 10:22; John 1:1, 1:14, 5:18, 8:58-59; Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 1:1-8; 1 John 2: 21-23; Galatians 1:11-18

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- How has God spoken to you regarding the sermon and/or text?
- Look at 9:1-31 as a whole. What are the elements of Saul's conversion?
- Re-read Acts 7:54-8:3. Discuss how that incident might have been the impetus of Saul's actions.
- What are some of the biggest changes that have occurred in your life as a result of your conversion?

- What is the center of Saul's message? What does this confirm about the nature of his conversion?
- Read John 1:1, 1:14, 8: 58-59. Discuss the scriptural claims of Christ.
 - Why is that important? Reference John 8:23-24 and 1 John 2:21-23.
- Paul/Saul said in Galatians 1:11-18 that he left Damascus, went to Arabia and then returned to Damascus where he spent some time (3 years) before being forced to flee to Jerusalem.
 - What is the significance about the time he spent in "communion" with God?
 - What is the significance of the place he went and how do you think it impacted him?
- Having alone time with God, being in His word and in prayer, is important. Discuss Dr. Adrian Rodgers 5 factors in having a fruitful quiet time with God.
 - The Proper Period-*finding the right time*.
 - The Proper Preparation-*be alert and ready*.
 - The Proper Place-*a place of focus*.
 - The Proper Provision-*have the right tools*.
 - The Proper Procedure-*focus your mind on Him*.
 - Discuss your quiet times with God?
- What do you think it was like for Paul to return to Damascus and then to Jerusalem?
- What kind of persecution or rejection did you encounter when you came to faith?
- How important was Barnabas to Saul?
 - Do you have a Barnabas in your life?
 - Do you need to be a Barnabas to someone?
- What does it mean to live "in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit?"
 - In what ways does that produce peace?

Gospel Celebration:

- Jesus is the Promised Son! Jesus is the Eternal Son! Jesus is the Christ!
- Being God as well as man, His death accomplished what God alone could accomplish-the Gospel!

Prayer Focus:

- Pray for opportunities to boldly witness to others concerning the person and work of Jesus.
- Look for ways to be an encourager to others.

Next Week's Text: Acts 10