



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 33 – Acts 09

People — Who is involved?

Saul of Tarsus – persecuting Christians, then converted to Christ and preaching.

Jesus – appearing to Saul

Ananias – taking the gospel to Saul

Barnabas – receiving Saul at Jerusalem

Peter – healing Aeneas and raising Dorcas

Places — Where does it happen?

On the road from Jerusalem near Damascus

Damascus, Syria – Straight Street (v. 11)

Jerusalem – Saul to meet the church

Lydda – 25 mi. NW of Jerusalem on the plain of Sharon

Joppa – on coast of Israel south of Caesarea

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

Vs 1 – Notice the degree of violence to which Saul was going against the Christians. Very hostile.

Vs 1 – This High Priest is probably still Caiaphas who had been active in putting Jesus to death and had led the Council in its initial efforts to stop the preaching of Peter, John, and the other apostles.

Vs 2 – Damascus (135 mi. north of Jerusalem), first city outside Israel noted in text as having Christians.

Vs 2 – “The Way,” a designation of Christians (Acts 19:9, 23; 24:14, 22). Jesus is “the Way” (John 14:6).

Vs 7 – The men with Saul saw the light (22:9), but they did not see the Lord Jesus.

Vs 7 – The men also heard a voice (the sound), but they did not “hear” to understand what Jesus said.

Vs 10 – Ananias was a Jewish believer in Christ (22:12).

Vs 11 – The term “brother” does not suggest he was already saved. Ananias was a fellow human and Jew.

Vs 12 – Notice the Lord’s attention to detail: the street, the house, Saul’s hometown, what he was doing.

“Straight Street” ran east and west; noted for major halls with colonnades & two city gates at ends

Vs 17 – Here we have the healing of Saul’s blindness. (mentioned without detail also in 22:13).

Vs 20 – After baptism, Saul’s first preaching was in the synagogues of Damascus. This confused them.

Vs 25 – Paul had to escape from the governor of Damascus, under Aretas the king, over the wall by night (2 Cor. 11:32-33). He says he went to Arabia and returned to Damascus (Gal. 1:17). Aretas came to power in AD 37 and died in AD 39. This gives us an approximate timeframe for Saul’s conversion.

Vs 26 – While to many the chronology is difficult Paul went to Jerusalem, perhaps after 3 years (Gal. 1:18).

Vs 31 – Notice how the church has spread. This is the first mention of churches in Galilee.

Vs 36 – The Aramaic name is “Tabitha.” In Greek that is “Dorcas.” Both names mean “gazelle” or “deer.”

Vs 43 – A “tanner” works with the skins and carcasses of dead animals. To Jews that was “unclean.”

Perspectives — What may I learn from this chapter?

1. *There were things for Saul to do after he had seen the Lord but before his sins were washed away (9:6; 22:16).*
2. *The church at Jerusalem received Saul even after he had participated in the death of Stephen.*
3. *The church spread to all regions of Israel and the apostles continued to preach and do miracles.*