



Discussion Notes

Saul's Story, Part 1 • Acts 9:1–9

May 3, 2026 • Dave Solmes

Main Theme:

Am I a follower of Jesus, or am I on my own journey? In Acts 9 we are introduced to Saul. As Saul heads to Damascus on his own journey, Jesus confronts him, and Saul hears how he needs to receive salvation. It's never too late to become a follower of Jesus!

Sermon Outline:

Verses 3–4:

Jesus asks, "*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?*" Jesus' carefully worded question reminds us that Jesus wants us to know some things about Himself and His people:

- Jesus knows us personally.
- Jesus pays close attention to how and what we do.
- Moments matter to Jesus.

Saul thought he was serving God.

- He had theology.
- He had conviction & commitment.
- He had zeal.
- He was just — wrong.

Jesus is relating personally to the persecution of His people. We learn that:

- Jesus is one with His people.
- Jesus is deeply connected to His followers.
- He doesn't stand at a distance from their suffering — He identifies with it.
- Suffering is not meaningless — it's relational.

Verse 5:

Saul's use of the word "Lord" is a significant confession.

- The name, "LORD" comes from the word which means "supreme in authority" and a person who exercises absolute ownership rights.
- Saul's recognition of the Lordship of Christ is historic. There is one Lord for all people. This would eventually move and motivate Saul as an evangelist that travelled the world teaching about Jesus.

Jesus identifies Himself as Jesus, which means, "Savior." He is willing and able to save Saul and all others that call on the name of the Lord.

Verses 6–9:

Jesus instructs Saul to keep on His Way to Damascus.

- It is never too late to start doing the right thing.
- It is never too late to become a Follower of The Way (Follower of Jesus).



Study Questions

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Engage:

- In your initial reading of the text, what stands out to you? Think about key themes, words, phrases, or people.
- What questions do you have about the text?

Observe:

Verses 3–4: Jesus asks Saul, “Why are you persecuting me?”

- How is this “why” question Jesus asks Saul so catalytic to Saul’s conversion?
- How does this “why” question introduce Saul to who Jesus is, and who the Followers of The Way are?

Verse 5a: Saul asks, “Who you are you, Lord.”

- How is Saul’s confession an absolute miracle that displays the grace of God?
- In what way has the lie that Saul has been believing as truth, now been exposed?

Verse 5b: Jesus answers, “I am Jesus, who you are persecuting.”

- How is Jesus’ introduction to Saul so gracious?
- How do we see the love of God on full display in Saul’s life?

Verses 6–9:

- How is Jesus’ instruction for Saul to continue on to Damascus so redemptive for Saul?
- Why is it helpful to think that it is never too late to start doing the right thing?

Apply:

- Are there lies that have become your truths?
- Is Jesus Lord in your life, and have you allowed Jesus to save you?

- As you examine your life, are you doing your own thing, or are you a follower of the way (Jesus)?
- Is Jesus inviting you to give more of yourself to Him?
- Are there certain areas in your life that you need to start over?
- Pray for each other.