

When Saul Followed Jesus

1

Question...

How do you respond when a famous or infamous person says they've found Jesus?

2

Review of last time

- Saul was persecuting the church — they scattered
- Jesus appeared to Saul
- Jesus appeared to Ananias

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When someone truly follows Jesus their purpose for living changes.

When someone truly follows Jesus it is often unbelievable to others.

When someone truly follows Jesus challenges frequently come from old friends.

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Passages

- Acts 9:17-25
- Acts 9:26-31
- Acts 11:19-30
- Acts 22:17-21
- 2 Corinthians 11:32-33
- Galatians 1:15-24

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Ananias' Response

Acts 9:17-18

¹⁷ Ananias went and entered the house. He placed his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road you were traveling, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

¹⁸ At once something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized.

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Ananias' Response

Acts 9:17-18

- Obeyed Jesus
- Laid hands on Saul
- "Brother Saul"
- Baptized Saul

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Saul's Immediate Activities

Acts 9:19-22

¹⁹ And after taking some food, he regained his strength.

Saul was with the disciples in Damascus for some time. ²⁰ Immediately he began proclaiming Jesus in the synagogues: "He is the Son of God."

²¹ All who heard him were astounded and said, "Isn't this the man in Jerusalem who was causing havoc for those who called on this name and came here for the purpose of taking them as prisoners to the chief priests?"

²² But Saul grew stronger and kept confounding the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.

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Saul's Immediate Activities

Acts 9:19-22

- Stayed for "some days"
- Proclaimed Jesus
- Increased in strength
- Confounded the Jews
- Proved that Jesus was the Christ

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The Plot in Damascus

Acts 9:23-25

²³After many days had passed, the Jews conspired to kill him, ²⁴but Saul learned of their plot. So they were watching the gates day and night intending to kill him, ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the wall.

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The Plot in Damascus

Acts 9:23-25

- Jews conspire
- Gates guarded
- Saul escapes in a basket

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First Trip Back to Jerusalem

Acts 9:26-30

²⁶When he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, since they did not believe he was a disciple. ²⁷Barnabas, however, took him and brought him to the apostles and explained to them how Saul had seen the Lord on the road and that the Lord had talked to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸Saul was coming and going with them in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹He conversed and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰When the brothers found out, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

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First Trip Back to Jerusalem

Acts 9:26-30

- Reaction of the Disciples
- Barnabas' testimonial
- Preached / Disputed
- Another plot to kill Saul
- Caesarea, then Tarsus

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Result for the Church

Acts 9:31

³¹ So the church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was strengthened. Living in the fear of the Lord and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers.

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Result for the Church

Acts 9:31

- Peace
- Built up
- Fear & comfort
- Multiplied

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Here's the Story Line

- Saul follows Jesus
- Ananias lays hand on and baptizes Saul
- Proclaimed Jesus in Damascus
- Plot and escape from Damascus
- Preaches in Jerusalem
- Plot and Escape to Caesarea / Tarsus

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More detail comes from other places...

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Saul's Vision

Acts 22:17-21

- Leave quickly!
- Sent far away

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Time in Arabia

Galatians 1:15-17

- Set apart by God
- Did not...
- Did...
- Arabia, then back to Damascus

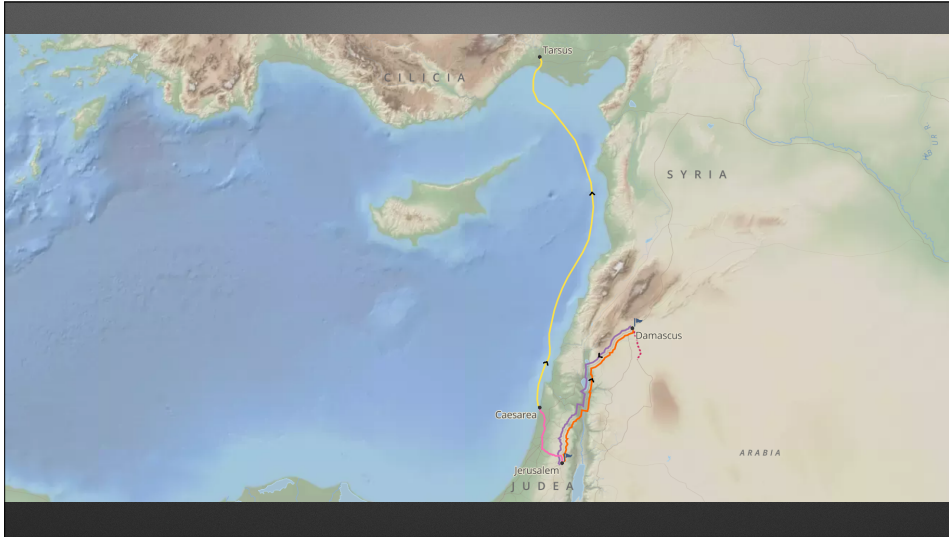
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Timeframes

Galatians 1:18-24

- 3 yrs in Damascus
- In Jerusalem for 15 days
- Travel to Syria and Cilicia for 14 yrs
- 2nd time to Jerusalem

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We need more info on this 2nd trip to Jerusalem

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Barnabas Gets Saul

Acts 11:19-30

- Growth of the church in Antioch
- Barnabas sent to Antioch
- Went to Tarsus to get Saul
- Spent a year in Antioch
- Famine
- Relief sent to Judea with Barnabas and Saul

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But wait, there's more!

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When did this happen?

2 Corinthians 11:32-33

³²In Damascus, a ruler under King Aretas guarded the city of Damascus in order to arrest me. ³³So I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped from his hands.

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Let's Update the Story Line

- Saul follows Jesus
- Ananias lays hand on and baptizes Saul
- *Time in Arabia*
- Proclaimed Jesus in Damascus
- Plot and escape from Damascus
- Preaches in Jerusalem *for 15 days / vision*
- Plot and Escape to Caesarea / Tarsus *for 14 years*
- *Barnabas brings Saul to Antioch*
- *2nd Visit to Jerusalem with famine relief*

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Closing Thoughts

- Jesus changes lives!
- Even the disciples were skeptics
- Resistance to the gospel is expected

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