

Sunday, April 13, 2025
Title: “Encountering Risen Jesus”
Text: Acts 9:1–31
Series: *Easter Season*

- 1. Rejecting Jesus is Rejecting God (Acts 9:1–9).**
- 2. Jesus Rescues People on the Wrong Road (Acts 9:4–19).**
- 3. Truly Knowing Jesus Changes Your Life Forever (Acts 9:20–30).**
- 4. Jesus is the Son of God, the Christ—the only Savior and Lord (Acts 9:20–22).**

I. Saul's Zeal to Persecute Jesus' Followers

Exposition: "Meanwhile" (v. 1) This event occurs within a larger narrative; Namely =

Character Insight / Re-Introduction: A Quick Portrait of Saul (vv. 1–2)

1) The words on Saul's lips are murderous threats against Jesus' disciples (v. 1).

2) Saul's journey to Damascus was intended to catch Jesus-followers (i.e. Christians) and imprison them—men or women (v. 2)

Conflict: Saul struggles against the Resurrected Christ

1) Saul is journeying to Damascus to imprison Christians, when Christ Himself stops Him on the way.

(1) Jesus says: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (v. 4)

(2) Saul says "who are you, Lord" (v. 5a)

(3) Jesus says "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting" (v. 5b) then commands Saul to go to Damascus and receive further instructions.

Rising Action:

1) The men are speechless, Saul is now physically blind; for 3 days he doesn't eat (vv. 7–9).

2) In Damascus, Jesus tells Ananias (an ordinary Christian) to receive Saul, although Saul is a well-known persecutor of Christ-followers (vv. 10–16)

3) Ananias obey Jesus and by God's power; Saul sees both Physically and Spiritually (vv. 17–19a)

4) Saul stays with the disciples in Damascus—the very ones he came to imprison. Now, he spends his time **PREACHING the good news of Jesus as God the Son** in the very synagogues he once worked in (vv. 19b–22)

5) Not everyone is happy Saul is saved. In fact, some conspire to kill him, yet his new friends rescue him (vv. 23–25).

6) Not everyone is ready to trust Saul is changed; the disciples in Jerusalem fear this is a trick—but Barnabas brings him in and brings him along, with the result of the growth of the church in many regions (vv. 26–31).

a) Barnabas bring Saul in... (v. 27)

b) But Hellenistic Jews look to Kill Saul, so he goes on the move (v. 30)

c) Yet the church had peace and was built up in the fear of the Lord and multiplied in the comfort of the Spirit (v. 31)