

Bible Summary-Acts 8

Saul to Paul

Paul is one of the most important people in history but he began his career with hatred for Jesus and His followers. How was Saul, the hater, changed into Paul, the lover? First, he saw the light. This light made him reevaluate everything he had believed before that day on the road to Damascus. Secondly, he thought deeply. Christianity is a thinking “religion”. We are to love the Lord our God with all of our minds. Jesus says when you are worried, think about creation. Paul thinks through what he had witnessed and becomes the intellectual driver for faith in Jesus in the early church. Third, Jesus tells Saul/Paul that when he was hurting the church it was hurting Him. The idea that we are unified with Jesus becomes a theme for all Pauline theology. It is this union that becomes the power to change us into His image.

Scriptures: Acts 8:3, 9:1-9, 26:14; Hebrews 11:3; Matthew 6:28; Matthew 25:40; Colossians 1:27; 2 Corinthians 3:18

Bible Questions and Application

(These are here as an aid in facilitating conversation.

There is no obligation to run through **every** question listed.)

1. Matt shared that the Apostle Paul makes most people’s list of the top 5 influential people in the world. Outside of your family, who are the top 3 influential people in your life? Why?
2. If Jesus says in Matt 6: 28 that the flowers don’t worry about their existence, how can we become more like the lilies of the field?
3. Saul’s spiritual convictions were radically altered in Acts 9: 1-9. Can you share a time/experience that caused you to challenge your convictions?
4. Can you describe a time in your life when the Lord turned on a light (Acts 9:3) that radically improved your walk with Him? How did you incorporate that new truth into your life?
5. In the book of Acts, Saul was the least likely to become a Christian. If we **really** believe that no one is outside the reach of the Lord, how would it change the way we reach out to those that look like Sauls to us?
6. In Luke 10:27, God calls us to love Him with our heart, soul, strength, and mind. What does it mean to love the Lord with your mind?