

Acts 9:20-31

²⁰ Immediately he preached the Christ in the synagogues, that He is the Son of God. ²¹ Then all who heard were amazed, and said, "Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?" ²² But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

²³ Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him. ²⁴ But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him. ²⁵ Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a large basket.

²⁶ And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out. ²⁹ And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him. ³⁰ When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

³¹ Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.

1. Open your time of worship by listening to "Great Is Thy Faithfulness." This hymn is found on our monthly hymn page on our church's website (Look under the Sermons & Resources tab).
2. Take a moment to prayerfully praise our God for who He is and how He is full of wisdom, righteousness, and goodness. Rejoice in Christ and what He has accomplished for you. Give thanks for all the spiritual blessings that are yours in Christ through the Holy Spirit.
3. Read the Scripture passages listed above. Listen to the sermon through our website.

4. Take some time to think through the following statements/questions in light of the sermon:
- Almost immediately there seems to be a change in Saul. To what would you attribute this change?
 - Saul's ministry is marked by certain characteristics. Name these characteristics. Are/were these unique to him? Should they mark Christians and the church today? Why or why not?
 - Take a few moments to pray that the leadership at LBC would be marked by what marked Saul. Pray as well that every follower of Jesus at LBC would be marked by the same.
5. Close out your time of worship by reading "*O Thou Who Camest From Above*" by Charles Wesley.

1 O thou who camest from above
the fire celestial to impart,
kindle a flame of sacred love
on the mean altar of my heart!

2 There let it for thy glory burn
with inextinguishable blaze,
and trembling to its source return
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

3 Jesus, confirm my heart's desire
to work, and speak, and think for thee;
still let me guard the holy fire,
and still stir up the gift in me.

4 Ready for all thy perfect will,
my acts of faith and love repeat;
till death thy endless mercies seal,
and make the sacrifice complete.