



November 9, 2025

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Acts 9:1-22

Introduction

This week's message explores the dramatic conversion of Saul (later Paul) and challenges us to embrace God's disruptive plans for our lives. Raymond Ramos walks us through Saul's journey from persecutor to apostle, emphasizing that everyone needs a conversion experience where light breaks into darkness. The message highlights Ananias as a model disciple—someone whose heart and eyes were open to whatever God had for him, even when it seemed dangerous or uncomfortable. We're reminded that God often works through disruption and invitation, and that we've been saved not just for ourselves but to serve others. The distinction between merely being a Christian and being a true disciple challenges us to move beyond comfortable faith into obedient action.

Key Texts: Acts 9:1-19

Icebreaker

Tell about a time when your plans were completely disrupted—maybe by weather, a phone call, or an unexpected event. How did you respond in the moment?

Discussion Questions

1. **Read Acts 9:1-9 together as a group.** Saul had both a plan and a permit (official authorization) to persecute Christians. What does this tell us about how even well-organized, "legitimate" plans can oppose God's purposes? Where might our own well-laid plans need to be interrupted by God?
2. Raymond said, "God needs to take some people and lay them flat on their back so they could finally look up to see Him." Can you think of a time—in your life or someone else's—when God used disruption or even hardship to get someone's attention? What made that moment transformative?

3. The message distinguished between being a Christian and being a disciple, comparing it to "McDonald's cheeseburger vs. filet mignon." What do you think this distinction means? How would you honestly assess where you are on that spectrum right now?
4. **Read Acts 9:10-16 together as a group.** Ananias had every reason to refuse God's instruction—Saul was dangerous! Yet he responded with obedience. What fears or concerns might hold us back from saying "yes" to God's promptings? How can we cultivate hearts that are open to "whatever God has for us"?
5. Raymond emphasized that sharing the gospel is simply about invitation—"It's the Holy Spirit who works and cuts to the heart." How does this perspective relieve pressure or change how you think about evangelism? What invitation might God be asking you to extend?
6. The message concluded with the reminder that "we have been saved to serve" and that while life in the church is hard, "the way of Christ brings peace." How do you balance the reality that following Jesus is challenging with the promise of His peace? What does this look like practically in your life right now?

Key Takeaways

- God's plans are often disruptive and inconvenient to our own plans
- Everyone needs a conversion experience where light comes into darkness
- There's a difference between being a Christian and being a disciple
- True disciples have hearts and eyes open to whatever God has for them
- God can invite us to do things we feel unqualified to do
- We share the gospel through invitation; the Holy Spirit does the transforming work
- We have been saved to serve—life with Christ is hard, but it's the way of peace
- "If God can use me, He can use you"

Notes