

Sermon Discussion – 1 October 2023

Read Acts 9:1-19

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

Take a moment to reflect on your own conversion experience, if applicable. What led you to surrender to Christ, and how has this impacted your life? If you haven't experienced conversion, what questions or thoughts do you have about it?

Observation *Discovering the context*

- Discuss the idea that believers are God's Plan A for spreading the Gospel. How does this understanding shape your perspective on the purpose and mission of the church?
- Saul had a dramatic encounter with the risen Jesus. Do you think such dramatic encounters are necessary for conversion, or can conversion also occur in quieter, less dramatic ways? Share personal experiences or thoughts on this.

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. The sermon describes religion as *humanity's best effort to reach God*. Can you identify instances in your own life where this mindset is prevalent? How does recognising this mindset impact your understanding of salvation?
2. Saul's encounter with Jesus humbled him and led to surrender. How have moments of humility or surrender played a role in your own faith journey? In what ways does humility play a vital role in experiencing true conversion?
3. Discuss the idea that God saves sinners and desires to reach others through believers. How does this perspective influence your understanding of your role in sharing the Gospel and living out your faith?
4. The sermon poses the question, "Have I truly experienced conversion?" Take some time to reflect on this question personally. What does it mean to truly experience conversion, and how might it impact your life?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- As believers, how can we effectively bear witness to the grace of God and the message of Christ in our daily lives, especially when interacting with people who may not share our faith?

- Try memorising Acts 9:15...
“But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.”
- How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?