

Acts 9: 1-22 - Sauls journey to Damascus

Every journey begins with one step but I don't think that was in Saul's mind as he set out that morning breathing threats against the followers of The Way, a group of people who were talking about Jesus in a challenging way. He was well prepared with letters of authority from the High Priest to capture any that he found, male or female and take them bound to Jerusalem.

As they approached the city suddenly a blinding shone in front of them. Saul fell to the ground and heard a voice "Saul, Saul why do you persecute me" Saul asked who are you, Lord, with a big question mark in his voice. "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. Go into the city and you will be told what you are to do. Those who journeyed with him said nothing although they heard talking but didn't see any one. Saul got up but could not see so someone led him by the hand.

In Damascus there was a disciple called Ananias who the Lord spoke to, telling him where Saul was and what he needs to do. Ananias was uncertain, Saul's reputation was well known. The Lord confirmed what was required saying Saul was chosen to take the Good News to the Gentiles. On greeting him Ananias explained how the Lord had spoken to him telling him that his sight would be restored and he would receive the Holy Spirit. Saul got up and was baptised; staying in Damascus he stayed with the disciples and spoke in the synagogues about Jesus as Messiah.

The challenge for us is do we listen to the Lord and allow him to lead us probably not in such a dramatic way and how much the early church valued scripture. There are Bible reading notes available on your phone or computer; they are also available in booklet form. Make this year one when we grow spiritually.

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