



MIDWEEK FILLUP | THE STUDY OF ACTS

ACTS 9

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- To study the conversion of Saul, comparing Luke's account in this chapter with Saul's own words recorded later on in chapters 22 and 26.
- To note two miracles by Peter, and the affect they had on many people who heard about them.

SUMMARY

Not content with persecuting Christians in Jerusalem, Saul received permission from the high priest to seek out those of the Way in Damascus and bring them bound to Jerusalem. It was near Damascus that Saul was blinded by a vision of the risen Jesus. Told to go into Damascus for further instructions, Saul was led blind into the city where he waited for three days, neither eating nor drinking (**1-9**).

The Lord then appeared to a disciple named Ananias and sent him to restore Saul's sight and tell him what he would do as a chosen vessel for Christ. With his sight restored, Saul was baptized and resumed eating. For some days Saul remained in Damascus and began immediately preaching in the synagogues that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, to the amazement of those who knew that he had come to the city to arrest Christians (**10-19**).

After many days had passed (during which Saul apparently spent about 3 years in Arabia, cf. **Ga 1:17-18**), Saul barely escaped a plot to kill him by the Jews in Damascus (cf. **2 Cor. 11:32-33**). He went to Jerusalem where after Barnabas spoke in his behalf he was accepted by the brethren. Another plot by the Jews to kill Saul prompted the brethren to bring him to Caesarea and send him on to Tarsus. The churches in Judea, Galilee, and Samaria then enjoyed peace and grew as they walked in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit (**20-31**).

Luke then records two miracles performed by Peter. The first in Lydda, where Peter healed Aeneas, a man paralyzed and bedridden for eight years. This led many in Lydda and Sharon to turn to the Lord. In nearby Joppa, a disciple named Tabitha (Dorcas) became sick and died. Having heard that Peter was in Lydda, the disciples sent for him to come without delay. Peter raised Tabitha from the dead, leading many people in Joppa to believe on the Lord. Peter then remained in Joppa for many days, staying with Simon, a tanner (**32-43**).

I. CONVERSION OF SAUL (1-31)

1. THE APPEARANCE ON THE ROAD (1-9)

- a. Saul granted authority by the high priest
 - i. While aggressive in persecuting disciples of the Lord
 - ii. With letters to the synagogues in Damascus
 - iii. To find those of "the Way" and bring them bound to Jerusalem
- b. The Lord's appearance on the road to Damascus
 - i. Approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven shone around him
 - ii. Falling to the ground, he hears a voice: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?"
 - iii. When he asks, "Who are you, Lord?", he is told:
 - A. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."
 - B. "It is hard for you to kick against the pricks."
 - iv. When asked what to do, he is told:
 - A. "Arise, go into the city."
 - B. "You will be told what you must do."
 - C. His companions stand speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one
- c. Saul's arrival in Damascus
 - i. Getting up, he sees no one
 - ii. His companions lead him by the hand into the city
 - iii. There he waits for three days, without sight, neither eating or drinking

2. THE ARRIVAL OF ANANIAS (9-19)

- a. The Lord appears in a vision to Ananias, a disciple in Damascus
- b. Instructed to go to house of Judas on the street called Straight
 - i. Where Saul is praying and has seen a vision in which Ananias restores his sight
 - ii. Ananias is reluctant, knowing of Saul's persecution of the saints
 - iii. Ananias is commanded to go, for Saul is a chosen vessel
 - A. Who will bear the Lord's name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel
 - B. Who will be shown how many things he must suffer for His name's sake
 - iv. Ananias goes to Saul
 - A. Laying hands on Saul as he explains his purpose in coming
 - a. That Saul might receive his sight
 - b. And be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - B. Saul's sight is immediately restored, and is baptized
 - C. He resumes eating and spends some days with the disciples

3. THE MINISTRY IN DAMASCUS (20-25)

- a. Saul immediately preaches Christ as the Son of God in the synagogues
 - i. To the amazement of all who heard and knew his background
 - A. How he destroyed those in Jerusalem who called on His name
 - B. How he came to Damascus to bring them bound to the chief priests
 - ii. He increases in strength
 - A. Confounding the Jews who dwelt in Damascus
 - B. Proving that Jesus is the Christ
- b. Saul is forced to leave Damascus
 - i. After many days, the Jews plot to kill him
 - ii. When the plot is revealed, they watch the gates day and night to kill him
- c. The disciples help Saul escape at night by letting him over a wall in a basket

4. THE VISIT TO JERUSALEM (26-31)

- a. Saul joins himself to the disciples
 - i. Though at first they were afraid and did not believe him
 - ii. Barnabas brought him to the apostles and told them:
 - A. How he had seen the Lord on the road, who spoke to him
 - B. Of his bold preaching in Damascus
 - iii. Saul is accepted and circulates freely among the disciples in Jerusalem
- b. Saul is forced to leave Jerusalem
 - i. He speaks boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus
 - A. Disputing against the Hellenists
 - B. Who attempt to kill him
- c. The brethren learn of the attempt to kill Saul
 - i. They bring him down to Caesarea
 - ii. They send him to Tarsus

II. MIRACLES OF PETER (32-43)

A. THE HEALING OF AENEAS (32-35)

- a. Peter comes to the saints in Lydda
- b. He meets Aeneas, paralyzed and bedridden for eight years
- c. Peter tells him that Jesus Christ heals him, and he arose immediately
- d. All who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord

B. THE RAISING OF DORCAS (36-43)

- a. At Joppa, a certain disciple named Tabitha (Dorcas) dies
- b. A woman full of good works and charitable deeds
- c. Her body was washed and laid in an upper room

- d. Two men were sent to Peter in nearby Lydda
2. Peter raises Dorcas from the dead
 - a. He is brought to the upper room, where weeping widows showed garments by Dorcas
 - b. Sending the widows out, Peter kneels down and prays
 - c. Telling her "Tabitha, arise", she opened her eyes and sat up
 - d. Peter presents her alive to the saints and widows
 - e. As it became known throughout Joppa, many believed on the Lord
3. Peter remains in Joppa with Simon, a tanner