



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High.

Title: Showdown at High Noon!

Lesson: 54

Text: Acts 9:1-9

Date: Sept 10, 2023

Acts 9:1–9 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; 4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” And He said, “I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, 6 but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do.” 7 The men who traveled with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one. 8 Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Acts 9:1–9 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, 2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.

“still” -

“breathing threats”

“the way”

Why Damascus?

1. It had a large population of Jews.
2. It was the Lord’s chosen location for Saul’s conversion.

To set Saul apart from Judaism and to set him apart from the other apostles as the apostle to the Gentiles.

3. God’s providential use of Saul’s persecution was over.

3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him;

“suddenly” - (Mk 13:36,- Mt 24:30).

Acts 22:6 - “noontime” “very bright light”

Acts 26:13 - “light from heaven” “brighter than the sun”

“light” - (Mt. 17:2) Transfiguration, (Rev 1:16+) - “His face was like the sun shining in its strength.”

But it does not say that Saul saw Jesus.

1 Corinthians 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle?
Have I not **seen Jesus our Lord?**

1 Corinthians 15:4–8 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, **He appeared to me also.**

Acts 9:17 So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, **who appeared to you** on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

27 But Barnabas took hold of him and brought him to the apostles and described to them how he had **seen the Lord on the road**, and that He had talked to him, and how at Damascus he had spoken out boldly in the name of Jesus.

Acts 22:14 “And he said, ‘The God of our fathers has appointed you to know His will and to **see the Righteous One** and to hear an utterance from His mouth.

Five common realities in every conversion:

1. **God takes the _____ to pursue us.**

The doctrine of grace is rooted in the doctrine of total depravity.

Isaiah 64:7–8 There is no one who calls on Your name, Who arouses himself to take hold of You; For You have hidden Your face from us And have delivered us into the power of our iniquities. 8 But now, O Lord, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.

Romans 9:18–21 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.

19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?”

20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God?

Why did they quarrel, or complain back to God?

The thing molded will not say to the molder, “Why did you make me like this,” will it? 21 Or does not the potter have

a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use?

Saul's state of mind at the time:

Acts 9:1–9 Now Saul, **STILL** breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord,

Philippians 3:12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was **laid hold of** by Christ Jesus.

**God's sovereignty does not _____
man's responsibility to believe.**

Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man has come to **SEEK** and to save that which was lost."

2. God exposes our _____.

4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,

At the exposure of the glorified Christ - Saul
immediately - hit the ground

Acts 26:14 14 “And when **WE** had all fallen to the ground,

“Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

“Saul, Saul,”

What the Lord said is filled with significance:

1. He led with a _____.

2. He led Saul to accept the _____.

3. He introduced His relationship with the

_____.

Hebrews 4:14–16 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with

our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

4. He revealed the _____ sin.

The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 3:28–29 “Truly I say to you, all sins shall be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 but whoever **blasphemes against the Holy Spirit** never has **forgiveness**, but is guilty of an eternal sin”

**“blasphemes against the Holy Spirit” forfeits
“forgiveness”**

John 15:26 “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify about Me,**

John 16:14 **“He will glorify Me,** for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

John 15:26 “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will **testify about Me,**

John 16:8–9 “And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, - because **they do not believe in Me;**

Discussion Guide

What do we learn about salvation by comparing the eunuch's salvation experience with Saul's experience? Consider the timing and circumstances.

We have learned about the difference between texts that are descriptive and prescriptive. What was descriptive and prescriptive about Saul's conversion?

What does it say about salvation that Saul was converted while still bent on persecuting the church?

Was your understanding of the unpardonable sin different than what you learned in this Sermon. What is the unpardonable sin?

What stood out in your mind about today's sermon?



ANSWERS: initiative, invalidate, sin, question, resurrection, church, unpardonable