

Harvest Christian Fellowship
NO ONE IS BEYOND THE REACH OF GOD
ACTS 9:1-9
11/14/2021

MAIN TAKEAWAY

God has the power to radically change us and the course of our lives.

INTRODUCTION

How do you typically react to change? Do you thrive on change, or does it make you nervous? What does this say about your personality?

What is the biggest life change you've experienced recently? What do you remember most about that experience? How did you handle the change?

Change is inevitable. In our jobs, families, relationships, church, and country, change swirls all around us. For many people, change is far from welcome. The way that we respond to change shapes our lives going forward. Today we will see that Paul experienced dramatic life changes as his story went from being one of the most feared enemies of Christianity to one of its most prolific voices.

UNDERSTANDING

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ACTS 9:1-9.

What was Saul's overall attitude toward Christianity before his conversion? Read Acts 8:1-3 for additional insight.

How do you think Saul felt when confronted by Jesus? Given his previous activities, what might he have been thinking about during those three days of blindness and fasting (v. 9)?

Why do you think Jesus chose one of Christianity's worst enemies of the time to be a follower? Why is this good news for us? What does it tell us about God?

ASK A VOLUNTEER TO READ ACTS 8:9-25.

Refer to verses 9-13. What do you learn about Simon the Magician? How does he respond to Philip's message?

How did Simon respond to the apostles? What does this teach you about the genuineness of his belief?

Why do you think Simon's "conversion" was so different from Saul's?

The real benefit of the gospel is a relationship with Jesus Christ. Simon the Magician did not see it that way. Rather, he was impressed by the power and signs done by Philip and the apostles and sought to acquire this blessing by financial means.

APPLICATION

What in your past makes it hard for you to feel worthy of serving God? How does the gospel impact those feelings?

How has your past prepared you to minister to people today?

Who in our community can you connect with because of your story? What are some ways you can be intentional with people this week?

PRAYER

Close in prayer asking that God would use your history and experience to bring Him glory and to expand His kingdom. Pray that He would reveal ways for your group to serve the church and the community. Pray that God would use your stories of life changes to impact people in similar situations.