

UNSHAKEABLE

RISE AND GO

Acts 9:1 – 31 (ESV)

March 31, 2024

Jon Field, Lead Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

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

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works ... – Ephesians 2:8 – 9 (ESV)

Rise and Go:

- **Because no one is too lost for God to find them**

Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. And falling to the ground he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." – Acts 9:3 – 6 (ESV)

- **Because no one is too hard for God's grace to break them**

Saul rose from the ground, and although his eyes were opened, he saw nothing. So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. – Acts 9:8 – 9 (ESV)

- **Because no one is too broken for God to save them**

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." – Acts 9:10 – 12 (ESV)

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." – Acts 9:15 (ESV)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God ... – 1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

"Living in holiness is living with nothing hidden... Then I am clean; I am free; I am healing."

– The Cure, Chapter 4



So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ... – Acts 9:17 – 18 (ESV)

- **Because no one is too scarred for God to use them**

And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." And all who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name?"... – Acts 9:20 – 21 (ESV)

So he went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. – Acts 9:28 (ESV)



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Discussion Starter: Discuss why it is powerful to see the life of someone who is transformed through a relationship with God. What stood out to you in Saul's transformation?
- What was one of the biggest reminders for you about how God changes lives from Acts 9 and the example of the Apostle Paul?
- Read Acts 9:3 – 6. God reached Saul "*suddenly*" and decisively. Have a few people share their story and how God "*suddenly*" reached them or the process God used to make Himself known to them as Savior.
- Read Acts 9:6 again. Think about the people in your life with whom God is inviting you to "rise" and "go" to share His love and message of Hope.
- What are some of the things that prevent people from embracing Christ as Savior? Why is Paul's example such a great example of how no one is too lost, too hard, too broken or too scarred for God to find, break, save and use?
- Pastor Jon shared a definition of holiness from the book *The Cure* that said, "*Living in holiness is living with nothing hidden... Then I am clean; I am free; I am healing.*" What stands out to you from this definition of holiness?
- Read Acts 9:15. God places a new banner over the life of Saul by saying he is "*a chosen instrument of mine.*" If God were to display a new banner over your life, what are some of the words He would write about your life in Him?
- Pray for all the guests who joined us this Easter and for God's continued work in their lives. Praise God together for the work He is doing in the lives of people through all the ministries of ENCOUNTER.