

Divine Appointments

Acts 9:1-16

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I. Saul, a picture of the old man. **Acts 9:1-2**

Saul, without the Holy Spirit, is a picture of someone with zeal, but driven by the flesh, and is actually _____ against God.

- Christianity is more than a set of rules or doctrines. Following Jesus is a way of life, and naming Christianity **the** _____ was probably adopted from the words of Jesus Himself. **John 14:6**

II. Saul has a "Come to Jesus" meeting. **Acts 9:3-5**

Even though Saul was educated, the things of Jesus, the Old Testament prophecies, the promises, and eternal life by _____ in Christ were unknown to him before this Divine appointment.

- Notice how Jesus answered Saul. "**I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.**" The name "Jesus" means "Yahweh is _____."

Faithfulness to the LORD requires commitment, sacrifice, and a _____ resolution to obey the voice of God.

III. Saul's response. **Acts 9:6-9**

Again, Saul did not fall in worship or reverence for the LORD; he was frightened and in survival mode, but then he _____ to Jesus with obedience.

- When someone has a genuine encounter with Jesus, they will repent by going in a new direction, they will receive a renewed love for God and His people, and they will be _____.

The LORD usually gives us enough light to take _____ step at a time. If we could see everything in our future, we might not venture out. **Joshua 3:13**

IV. Divine appointment for Ananias. **Acts 9:10-16**

After hearing the LORD's message about Saul, Ananias _____ God's call.

- Ananias' objections were logical, but he was not counting on the LORD to do a miracle in the life of Saul, and he wasn't _____ the LORD's ability to protect him during the mission.

When we follow the LORD's instruction, we receive His _____ and _____ as well.

V. Practical Application.

- The LORD has the power to _____.
- Man's conscience can be _____.

- _____ on the name of the LORD.
- Be _____ to the LORD's divine appointments.
- We all have an _____ we will not miss.

Small Group Discussion

Looking back at your notes from this week's sermon, was there anything that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

- What motivated Saul to persecute the followers of "The Way"? What do you think Saul was hoping to achieve by going to Damascus?*

Deuteronomy 18:20-22, Jeremiah 14:14, Isaiah 8:20

- How did Saul's encounter with Jesus change him? What did Jesus say to Saul on the road? What did He ask Saul to do?*

Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 2 Corinthians 3:18

- Why was Ananias reluctant to go to Saul? How did the LORD persuade Ananias to minister to Saul? How can we relate to the fear and doubt Ananias experienced?*

Isaiah 41:10, Philippians 4:6-7, 1 Peter 5:7

- What does this passage teach us about the LORD's choice of instruments for His work? What does this story teach us about the LORD's power and grace?*

Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Corinthians 1:27, Psalm 34:18

- How does this story encourage us to respond to disbelief or persecution?*

Isaiah 26:3, Joshua 1:8, John 20:29

- What is the significance of the title "The Way" and what does it show us about the early Christians?*

- How does this passage speak to the themes of forgiveness and transformation? What does this story teach us about the power of God to use anyone, even those who seem unlikely, for His purposes?*

- Discuss the Practical Application of this sermon.