

"A Defining Moment"

Acts 9:1-9, ESV

Introduction: As you assess and evaluate your life to this point, have you ever experienced a "defining moment"? Maybe it was marriage, kids, a career change, an illness, or termination from a job. If you have been born again, then certainly your salvation was a life-transforming moment. In today's text, Luke provides a record of an astonishing, transforming moment in the life of a man name Saul.

Ideas Driven by the Text:

1). DETERMINED MOTIVATION (v. 1-2).

Still breathing out **murderous** threats.
Against the **Lord's** people.
Asked for **authority** to go after believers in Damascus.
Men and/or women- to **imprison** them in Jerusalem.

Application: Saul was motivated by a burning passion to prevent the spread of Christianity. He was zealous to ravage and wreak havoc against anyone who believed in Christ. Persecuting Christians was Saul's obsession. **What is your obsession?** What motivates you? What will you give your time? Your energies? Your resources? I hope that, as you think about it, what motivates you is related in some fashion to your love for Christ. If not, what needs to change?

2). DEFINING MOMENT (v. 3-9).

As Saul approached **Damascus**...
A sudden, **supernatural** light from heaven shone around him
A voice said... "Saul, Saul, why do you **persecute** me?"
"Who are you, Lord?"
"I am **JESUS**, whom you are persecuting."
Rise, Enter the city. You will be told what you are to do.
Those with Saul. Speechless. Heard the **voice**, but saw no one.
Saul rose. He **temporarily** lost his sight.
Led by the **hand** and was brought into Damascus.
For three days Saul was without **physical** sight, and did not eat or drink.

Application: As one commentator put it, "From **fierce persecutor** to foremost preacher of the Christian faith..." How is this even remotely possible- JESUS!