

August 2, 2026

NO ONE IS TOO FAR GONE

Acts 26:9-18



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Sermon Notes

Acts 26:9–18 (ESV)

⁹“I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

¹⁰And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them.

¹¹And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

¹²“In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.

¹³At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me.

¹⁴And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

¹⁵And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

¹⁶But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,

¹⁷delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you

¹⁸to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

(Answer key located on the last page)

BIG IDEA: No one is too far gone for God's grace. Whatever rebellion you've run into, God can interrupt it, redeem it, and repurpose it for His mission.

I. REBELLION AND RESISTANCE-Acts 26:9–11 (ESV)

Paul admits, before a king, that he was completely wrong — he was a religious man sure he was serving _____ while actually fighting against Him.

Rebellion against God doesn't always look like obvious sin — sometimes it looks like _____, or being so sure we're right that we hurt people over it.

• **Application:** This week, take fifteen minutes and ask God, “Where have I been so sure I was right that I never asked if I was fighting against You?” Bring what comes to Him in prayer.

II. REVELATION OF REDEMPTION- Acts 26:12–15 (ESV)

Paul was headed straight to Damascus to arrest more Christians — he wasn't seeking God at all. Paul didn't find Jesus; _____ found Paul.

Only Paul heard his name spoken twice: “Saul, Saul.” In Scripture, when God repeats someone's name like that, it's always _____ and _____.

Greek Word Study: _____ (goad = a sharp stick) — used to direct an ox; when the ox kicks back, it only hurts itself.

• **Application:** This week, build five quiet minutes into each day, telling God simply, “I’m listening.” Give Him room to speak.

III. REPURPOSED FOR A MISSION- Acts 26:16–18 (ESV)

Jesus doesn't just tell Paul, “You're forgiven, now go live a quiet life.” He says, “I have appeared to you for this purpose...to _____ you” — a word that means to choose someone in advance.

Jesus calls Paul a “servant” — a picture of an _____, working hard below deck, unseen, so the vessel moves forward.

Jesus also calls him a “_____” — one who simply tells what he knows to be true.
God took the worst chapter of Paul's story and made it the very thing that qualified him to help others out of _____ too.

• **Application:** This week, write down, in three or four sentences, your own testimony of what God has done in your life. Identify one person to share it with, and ask God for courage to share it.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Who is the person — or is it you — you've already decided will never change? What would it look like to stop treating that verdict as final?

Answer Key

I. REBELLION AND RESISTANCE

God | pride |

II. REVELATION OF REDEMPTION

Jesus | personal | urgent | kentron
(goad)

III. REPURPOSED FOR A MISSION

appoint | under-rower | witness | darkness

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins.**

Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9–10)

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