



Sermon Growth Guide

April 27, 2025

“Totally Transformed”

Acts 9:1-9, 17-20

Key Verse: Acts 9:18

“Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized”

Big Idea: When we turn to Jesus, we see things in a new way, and death looks different now.

Foundations

Saul’s is a story of total transformation. The person we find at the end of our passage is radically different from who we read about at the beginning. God can transform our lives in the same way he did Saul—but we need to turn to him for this to happen.

When Saul could see again, he saw two new truths. First, Saul saw that he was lost. What he’d been devoting his life to (stamping out Christianity for the good of Judaism) no longer made sense. What had once added meaning to his life was no longer enough, and he made a full turn to the one who’d met him on the road to Damascus.

Second, Saul saw that he was loved. Despite all the damage he’d done to the followers of Jesus, the Lord met him in a personal encounter and lovingly helped Saul put the pieces back together again.

On this Sunday after Easter, when we remember loved ones who’ve gone to be with Jesus, we celebrate that our turning to Jesus enables us to see death differently from the rest of the world. Rather than a bitter end to our lives, it ushers us into a new and eternal enjoyment of our Creator and Lord. Christ’s followers no longer need to fear death, for we know that it no longer has the last word. Instead, it ushers us into a new and even better life.

Understanding God’s Word

Together, read Acts 8:3 and 9:1-9, 17-20.

How would you describe Saul based on 8:3 and 9:1-2? How has he changed by 9:20? What do you think was going through Saul’s mind during his three days without sight

Applying God’s Word

How would you briefly describe your turn to Jesus? Did it occur during a dramatic moment, or was it more of a gentle nudge within or early life commitment?

After seeking to destroy what Jesus had started, Saul received grace that he didn’t deserve. What helps you accept God’s grace even when you know you’re not deserving of it?

Celebrating members of First Pres who’ve gone to be with Jesus the past year reminds us that we’ll all one day experience death. How would you best describe your thoughts, fears, or anticipation around death?

Witnessing God’s Word

We read in 1 Peter 3:15, “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” How would you respond to someone who asked why you turned to Jesus?