1 - **The Conversion of Saul of Tarsus**

Acts Chapter 22

2 - **Who Was Saul Of Tarsus?**

* **Well known**. (Acts 26:4-5; Galatians 1;13-14; Phil. 3:4-6)
* **Well educated**. (Acts 22:3; cf., Acts 26:4-5; 5:34)
* **Well driven & focused.** (Acts 22:3; 26:5)
* **Well intentioned**. (Acts 26:9)
* **Well accomplished**. (Philippians 3:4-6)
* **Very religious and spiritual**. (Acts 22:3)
* **Well hardened**. (Acts 26:14; cf., 9:1-2; 22:4-5; 26:9-11)

3 - **On The Road To Damascus…**

* **“*Breathing threats and murder*” (9:1-2), persecuting “*this way to death*” (22:4-5) & “*tried to force*” Christians to “*blaspheme, furiously enraged at them*” (26:9-11)**
* **It was known what he was doing! (Acts 9:13-14)**
* **Would we consider Saul a “good candidate” for the gospel? (Matthew 13:1-9; Luke 19:5; John 4)**

4 – **On The Road To Damascus…**

* **Paul saw “*a very bright light*”, “*brighter than the sun*”.**
* **He heard a voice, “*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?*”** (cf., Matthew 25:37, 45)
* Paul responded, “***Who are You Lord***?”
* “***I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you are persecuting***.”

5 - **What Is Our Response When Confronted With Painful Truth?**

* Would he continue ***“kicking against the goads”*…**
* **Will we keep resisting the will of God?** (Acts 7:51)
* Will we continue to **deny accountability?** (Mark 7:9)
* Will we **resist because of pride?** (Habakkuk 2:4)
* **Will we regard as enemies those who speak the truth?** (Galatians 4:16; Amos 5:10)

6 - **How will we respond?**

* Paul’s response: ***“What shall I do, Lord?”*** (Acts 22:10)
  + Now he understands Him to be the Lord Jesus!
* “*Rise and enter the city (Damascus) and* ***it will be told you what you must do***.” (“Do” for what?)
* **There is something for us to do**! (Acts 2:37; 16:30; Luke 18:22; Matthew 16:24; Mark 16:15-16)
* It doesn’t mean we **earn our salvation**! (Romans 5:1-2)

7 - **Ananias Is Sent To Saul**

* The Lord called to Ananias in a vision, to which he responded, “***Here I am, Lord***”. (cf., 1 Samuel 3:10; Isaiah 6:8)
* He is told to go ask for Saul of Tarsus…
* “…***Who is praying***”. For what purpose?
* ***“Lord, I have heard from many about this man…”***
  + Have we made up our minds re: others?
* ***“Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine…”*** (vs. 15)
  + ***“chosen” -*** (Ephesians 1:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Colossians 3:12)

8 - **Ananias Is Sent To Saul**

* ***“Ananias departed and entered the house…”*** without further questioning or disputing… (James 1:21)
* ***“At Your word…”*** (Luke 5:5)
* **Do we trust God enough to put our lives on the line**? (1 Peter 4:9)

9 - **Ananias With Saul**

Ananias said to Saul **his purpose was**:

* Restore his vision. (22:13; note 26:18)
* God appointed you to **know His will**. (22:14)
* Be **filled with the Holy Spirit**. (9:17; cf., Acts 10:44)
* Saul that he would be **God’s witness**. (22:15)
* Exhort Saul to **delay his obedience no longer**!

10 - **Ananias Words To Saul**

* “***Now why do you delay****? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”*
* **The call to be baptized**:
* **The response to Saul’s prayer**… not forgiveness.
* **How we wash away our sins**... not through prayer (1 Peter 3:21; 1 Timothy 1:5)
* **How we call upon the Lord**! (Acts 2:21, 37-38; Romans 10:14)
* **How we put on Christ and walk in newness of life**. (Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)

11 - **Saul’s Response?**

* “***He got up and was*** *baptized…”* (Acts 9:18)
* **He listened to God and wrote down what He revealed.** (Galatians 1:10-12; Ephesians 3:3-5)
* **He went to work.** (Acts 26:19; 1 Corinthians 15:10; Col. 1:28-29)
* **He accepted the suffering he once inflicted**. (Acts 9:16; Romans 8:18; Philippians 3:8-10; 2 Timothy 1:8-12)
* **He finished his race.** (2 Timothy 4:7-8)
* **What will be your response today?**