

Acts 9:19b-25

*Saul's call is questioned*

*For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.*

*After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him; but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall, lowering him in a basket.*

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Saul is a fascinating character in general, but this story in particular shows us his mind-boggler element. In Acts, we learn Saul's early history and hear stories of how he originally helped persecute Christians. This is why the people of Damascus are a bit dumbfounded when Saul begins to evangelize. No one can seem to figure out how one of their chief oppressors is becoming one of Christianity's most persuasive advocates.

A key part of this story is to always remember that Saul was saved by the grace of Christ, not by his own deeds. In some ways, Saul's early life is a story of humility. We all manage to do some great things and all of us also fall into a good share of blunders too, but neither of these things is what marks us as children of God. Regardless if we come through life with a positive or negative scorecard, we are saved by God's grace. And when we do manage to do those really amazing, astounding things, and feel like we're standing on top of the world, it's just as important to remember whose we are and who we owe it all to.