**My Chosen Instrument**

Acts 9:1-31 (15, 16)

*“But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”*

1. What was Saul doing after Stephen's death? (1-2) Why do you think Saul was not satisfied after Stephen's death and continued to persecute all the more? Describe the Lord’s appearing to Saul in verses 3-4. Consider the Lord’s question to Saul in verse 4. Was the answer to the question for the Lord’s sake or Saul’s sake? What problem did Saul have that the Lord revealed here? What did the Lord reveal about himself?
2. What was Saul’s response to the Lord’s question? (5) What does Saul’s response show about the cause of his problem? What did the Lord further reveal about himself in answer to Saul’s question? (5b-6) How might this revelation have affected Saul? What does this event teach about the importance of knowing the Lord?
3. What did the Lord reveal about Saul to Ananias? (15-16) What does it mean to carry the name of Jesus? (cf. Act 4:12[[1]](#footnote-2)) What is the significance of the Lord using the word “instrument” to refer to Saul? Why did the Lord appear to Saul and choose him? (Eph 3:7-8[[2]](#footnote-3)) How did Saul later encourage other believers regarding Jesus’ grace and apostleship? (Rom 1:5[[3]](#footnote-4))
4. What does it mean that he would be shown "how much he must suffer for [Jesus'] name"? (16; Acts 5:41[[4]](#footnote-5)) How was this part of the solution to Saul’s problem? How did Saul respond to Jesus’ grace and choosing him? (7-9, 11, 20; 1 Cor 15:9-10[[5]](#footnote-6)) What can we learn from Saul about how to respond to Jesus’ grace?
5. What sufferings did Saul experience in Damascus and Jerusalem? (20-30) How did the Lord help Saul through Ananias and Barnabas? How was the Holy Spirit working in and through the church through these events? (31)
1. Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Eph 3:7-8 I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace given me through the working of his power. 8 Although I am less than the least of all the Lord’s people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Rom 1:5 Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from[a] faith for his name’s sake. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Acts 5:41 The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. 1 Cor 15:9-10 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)