

“It Happened”

preached by Bro. Mahlon T. LeCroix on 6/19/2022

Series Title: “Acts: The Church Unleashed” Main Passage: Acts 9:1-31

Opened with a discussion about people who had been radically **changed** by the power of the Gospel.

- John **Newton** was once a slave ship owner.
- Mel **Trotter** was once a hopeless alcoholic.
- Saint **Augustine** was once a womanizer.
- Of all the great conversions throughout history, few if any can compare to the conversion of **Saul** of Tarsus.

- 1) First, the Gospel is earth **shattering** to the one whom God intends to save.
 - **Paul** was a super star in the Jewish world, but that all changed once he met Jesus. (ref: Philippians 3:4-8)
 - When it comes to **Judgement** Day, the only thing that will matter is what you did with Jesus and what you did for Jesus.

- 2) Second, the Gospel is life **changing** to the one whom God intends to save.
 - The Holy Spirit will **change** your “want to’s”
 - If there is no change, there is no **salvation**. (ref: James 2:17)
 - John Newton, *“I am not the man I ought to be, I am not the man I wish to be, and I am not the man I hope to be, but by the grace of **God**, I am not the man I used to be.”*
 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, *“Such **were** some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.”* They were changed! Born Again! New Creations! New want to’s.
 - “There, but for the grace of **God**, go I.”
 - Strive to be an **encourager** and not a discourager.

In closing...

- Don’t give up! **God** truly can save and change anyone.
- Are you willing to be the **Ananias** who will risk everything to reach them?
- Are you willing to be the **Barnabas** to encourage and strengthen them once they have been saved?