

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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WHAT A BLIND MAN SAW

Larry R. Ping II

Most are familiar with the conversion story of Saul. Luke’s historical record of this event is located in Acts 9, while Paul personally shares his conversion account in Acts 22 and 26. Most also are aware Saul, while waiting to speak with Ananias, was “three days without sight” (Acts 9:9).

Have you paused to think about what this blind man saw during this amazing account? Following are a few lessons to consider.

1) Saul Saw An All-Seeing God. On his way to Damascus, Saul was “breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord” (Acts 9:1). Later, the Lord said to Saul, “I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks” (Acts 9:5). How could the Lord have known Saul was carrying out these evil deeds unless He is, indeed, an all-seeing, omni-present God? In fact, He is! David once asked, “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence” (Psa. 139:7)? The answer to this

oft-asked question is nowhere. If a blind man can see this, how could we not?

2) Saul Saw Jesus Was The Lord, The Son Of God. Saul was operating from the position of Jesus was an imposter, and any individual following Him was worthy of imprisonment, or death. In fact, he was on his way to Damascus to receive authority to bring so-called Christians “bound unto Jerusalem” (Acts 9:2). Yet, in emphatic fashion, Saul met the Lord, and of this there was no doubt (Acts 9:5). Saul now knew, beyond any doubt, Jesus was indeed the Son of God who left Heaven and lived on earth for a space of time (Php. 2:5-8). Saul now knew Jesus was Lord, the One with supreme authority (Matt. 28:18). If a blind man can see this, how could we not?

3. Saul Saw It Was Impossible To Successfully Battle Against The Lord. When the Lord uttered to Saul, “it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks” (Acts 9:5), He was announcing to Saul the hopelessness of

waging war against God. Gamaliel knew this well saying, “if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God” (Acts 5:39). Job of old queried, “who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered” (Job 9:4)? Saul learned this on the highway to Syria. If a blind man can see this, how could we not?

4. Saul Saw The Need To Ask An Important Question. In response to all of these events, Saul was “trembling and astonished” (Acts 9:6). This prompted him to ask, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do” (Acts 9:6)? There were others who asked critical questions. The treasurer of Ethiopia asked “what doth hinder me to be baptized” (Acts 8:36) and the Philippian jail-keeper asked, “what must I do to be saved” (Acts 16:30)? Based upon what had happened to him, Saul knew the time had come to ask this important question. If a blind man can see this, how could we not? (cont.)

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5. Saul Saw The Necessity Of Obedience. In answer to Saul's great question, the Lord responded by saying, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do" (Acts 9:6). It was important to know what to do, but it was as important to know it *must* be done. In Acts 22:10, Saul quoted the Lord as saying, "Arise, and go into Damascus; and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do." Later, in the audience of Agrippa, Paul admitted, "I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19). If a blind man can see this, how could we not?

6. Saul Saw The Need For Baptism. Once Saul and Ananias were able to meet, and had "received sight," he "arose and was baptized" (Acts 9:18). This was so because Ananias said, "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). In truth, many in the book of Acts saw the same need. About 3000

were baptized on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41). Men, women, and a sorcerer were baptized in Samaria (Acts 8:12-13). A eunuch, away from home, was baptized (Acts 8:38-39). Cornelius, a Gentile, and some of his family were baptized (Acts 10:47-48; 11:14). Lydia, a business-woman away from home, was baptized (Acts 16:15). A jail-keeper and some of his family, in the middle of the night, were baptized (Acts 16:33). Some in Corinth "hearing believed, and were baptized" (Acts 18:8). About twelve men in Ephesus, though having been immersed with John's baptism, were "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:5). If a blind man, along with all these others, can see this, how could we not?

7. Saul Saw A Compassion To Teach Others The Gospel. When Ananias was first told of his responsibility, he was very, very hesitant. His words were, "Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: And here he hath

authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name" (Acts 9:13-14). The Lord assured Ananias Saul would be "a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" (Acts 9:15). To his great credit, Ananias "went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul" (Acts 9:17). Saul was an intelligent man, and no doubt knew there would have been a great deal of reluctance on the part of Ananias. However, all that Saul saw was a man willing to love him, and share with him the Gospel call to salvation. If a blind man can see this, how could we not? Further, will our neighbors, families, and friends see a like attitude in us as was seen in Ananias?

8. Saul Saw The Mercy And Grace Of God. How could a man bent on doing such evil be accepted by God? By his mercy and grace (Eph. 2:4)! Later, Paul would champion the Lord's "grace" (I Tim. 1:14). If a blind man can see this, how could we not?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm