

Three Busy Days

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink," (Acts 9:8-9).

I have to think that Saul was very busy in these three days after entering Damascus. He was not busy in the normal way of going places and doing physical work, but busy in his mind. The journey had not gone as planned and he didn't know at this time how it would end. There was a lot on his mind as he sat in darkness and thought about his life up to the incident outside the city of Damascus.

He was full of zeal for the Lord and took upon himself a mission to safeguard the law. *"They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service," (John 16:2).* This had been Saul ever since the death of Stephen. He fought against the church, persecuting those who believed in Jesus, both men and women. They were beaten, jailed, and if they didn't deny Jesus they were stoned. Not content to fight them only in Israel, he went to other countries. That is why he was going to Da-

mascus, in Syria, with letters of authority from the chief priest. He saw himself as a defender of the law on a Holy Mission for God. Surely, in his mind, he was very pleasing unto God as he thought of the many he had put in jail, tortured and killed.

Everything changed after that bright light that shown around him on the road. He had been struck down, blinded, and filled with great fear wondering what was happening to him. Saul was a very intelligent man and knew that something very unusual was taking place. To add to his confusion and fear came a voice calling his name. In a moment's time he went from being a confident man leading soldiers on a mission to being a fearful blind man lying on the ground. He was asked, *"Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4).* Knowing that he persecuted the followers of Jesus, he was the more afraid. He asked who it was that spoke to him and was told that it was Jesus, which made him the more fearful. It had to appear that his life was turning upside down as this happened to him.

Saul had become a man whom others feared until this time. For now he realized that he was not in control of things. Gone was the self-confidence, and the pride that he had had in himself. He was fearful and trembling when he asked, *"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6).* He knew that Jesus was speaking unto him for a reason. This same Jesus that he had hated and fought against, persecuting his followers, was

actually speaking unto him. Nothing could have caused him to fear any more than this. He had thought that he was doing God's will and was shocked to find out that he was not.

Could anything have been more terrifying than to find out suddenly that you were fighting against God? Shattered was the pride and the thought that he was doing God's will. Here was the reality that the Lord was telling him that he was persecuting Jesus. Saul would have not believed this if he had not been told in just this way. He had been so proud of his zeal for the Lord and had put so much effort into hunting and torturing these "Christians."

For three days Saul was so terrified that he could not eat or drink. He was also blind and probably too upset to think about sleep. As a Pharisee he had prided himself in his knowledge of the scriptures and it was a shock to find out that he was wrong. Surely he spent much time going over the scriptures in his mind trying to figure out how he, and Israel, had missed seeing Jesus as the Messiah. There was another thought that caused him great concern. When Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus he was told that there were things that he must do. *"And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do," (Acts 9:6).*

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JACOB'S WELL

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE ANCIENT SAMARITAN CITY OF SYCHAR, IS JACOB'S WELL WHERE JESUS OF NAZARETH ASKED THE WOMAN OF SAMARIA FOR A DRINK OF WATER. IT IS SITUATED AT THE EASTERN MOUTH OF THE VALLEY BETWEEN MOUNT EBAL ON THE NORTH AND MOUNT GERIZIM ON THE SOUTH. THE WELL IS MORE THAN 75 FEET DEEP BEFORE WATER IS REACHED BUT IT IS STILL USED AND ITS WATER IS PURE AND IS SUPERIOR TO THAT OF NEARBY SPRINGS AND STREAMS. THE DEPTH OF THE WELL CERTAINLY AGREES WITH THE STORY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN ADMONISHING JESUS THAT HE HAD NO WAY TO GET WATER FROM SO DEEP A WELL AS THIS ONE WAS! (JOHN 4:11)

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