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# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### A Miraculous Church Series, Lesson 53

**Lesson Title:** A Miraculous Change – Saul's Conversion

**Take Home Point:** Jesus calls us to follow him.

#### **Warm-Up:**

Most of us grew up hearing and reading fairy tales and other children's stories about changed lives and a "happily ever after" future. Remember "The Ugly Duckling?" A baby swan is scorned and shunned because he was not attractive like the other ducklings. Then over the winter, he matures to become a beautiful swan to the amazement of all the other animals. And how about other stories such as Cinderella, the Frog Prince, Beauty and the Beast, or Pinocchio? These stories and many others have a common theme – the apparently miraculous transformation of an unwanted, unattractive creature into a happy, delightful, and appealing character. The cause of the transformation varies, but the result is the same.

**Read:** Acts 9:1-22; Ephesians 1:18

#### **Observation (What happened?):**

Why did Saul want to go to Damascus?

According to the voice in Acts 9:6, who was Saul really persecuting?

#### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

What do you think Saul was thinking during his three days of blindness?

What hope and glorious inheritance do we have as saints of God?

#### **Insight:**

The conversion account of Saul is frequently used to display God's power to transform even the most unlikely character into a devoted servant of the Lord. Saul's call on the road to Damascus is unique in Scripture. It is fascinating to investigate varied conversion experiences, both from the Bible and from popular literature. Remember how the disciples were called? Pulled from work, most of them, by this man named Jesus who didn't say much to them except, "Follow me." In Acts 8, we learn of the Ethiopian who was reading the book of Isaiah when God whisked in Phillip to explain it to him. And then in Acts 18, we read of Apollos, who understood about Jesus as a prophet but not as Savior until it was further explained to him. Today, we can read of the many different conversion experiences of people around the world. Few are like Saul's dramatic experience, although that still happens. But many people can't pinpoint an exact time when God called them to salvation and they responded. What matters is that we follow him when he does call us to be his own, and that we commit ourselves to serve him with our lives.

#### **Application (What does it mean to me?):**

How is Jesus calling you to follow him? What does he want you to do?

Take a few minutes and make a list of all the changes God has made in your life as you have responded to his call.