



Date: _____

Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

A Miraculous Church Series, Lesson 54

Lesson Title: A Miraculous Rescue - Saul

Take Home Point: God rescues us from unbelief.

Warm-Up:

A friend of mine recently got the job of his dreams. The next day he won the grand prize in a local drawing, which was a new automobile. The very next day, he was informed by his bank that his mortgage was forgiven and he no longer owed them any money. Do you know what my response was? I hurried to see him so I could assure him I would help in his rescue! As you can imagine, he looked at me as if I had gone off the deep end! Why would I think he needs rescuing? What are the conditions we typically think of when the topic of a rescue comes up? Do we concern ourselves with those who are not in a position of risk, danger, or loss? Of course not! Rescue means providing assistance to someone who needs help to get out of a grave situation. We do not attempt to rescue someone who is not in dangerous circumstances.

Read: Acts 9:10-31; Hebrews 11:6

Observation (What happened?):

What did Saul immediately begin to do after he regained his strength?

How did the disciples in Jerusalem respond to Saul's coming?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why were the Jews so intent on killing Saul in both Damascus and Jerusalem?

How do you think Saul felt when he began to be persecuted by the Jews?

Insight:

We typically focus on Saul throughout this account. He is, after all, the main character and has as dramatic a life change as anyone in the Bible. But there are other people who deserve our attention, some named and some not. Consider the Damascenes. First, they lived in mortal fear, knowing that a High Priest-approved judge, jury, and executioner was coming for them. But God did such a work in them that they later risked their lives to save Saul's. Then there is Barnabas. We first read of him in Acts 4:36 as one of the earliest believers. When all the other disciples, including it seems the original twelve, shunned Saul in Jerusalem, Barnabas came alongside and encouraged them all to accept this new believer. What extraordinary insight, courage, and faith! Isn't it just like our great God to use other fallen people to assist in our rescue? Why? Because the result is certainly praise to God, both by the rescuers and the rescued.

Application (What does it mean to me?):

How do you respond when someone challenges beliefs you hold that are not in accordance with the Bible?

Do you recall a time when God rescued you from someone or something? Take a moment to thank him again.