

## Try a Total Turnaround

### What Do I Do Now? (part 11)

#### *It's your life that must change*

Matthew 3:8 Msg

*“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. But God had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.*

1 Timothy 1:15-16 NLT



1Meanwhile, Saul was still **breathing out murderous threats** against the Lord's disciples. He went to ... Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way ... he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. 3As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, **“Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”**

5“Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,”** he replied. 6 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

10In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!” **“Yes, Lord,” he answered.** 11The Lord told him, “Go to ... Saul...” 13 “Lord,” Ananias answered, **“I have heard many reports** about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”

15But the Lord said to Ananias, **“Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles** and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” ...

20At once he began to preach in the synagogues that **Jesus is the Son of God.**

21All those who heard him were **astonished** and asked, “Isn't he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn't he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” 22Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and **baffled** the Jews living in Damascus by **proving that Jesus is the Christ.**

23After many days had gone by, the Jews **conspired to kill him,** 24but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. 25But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.

26When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but **they were all afraid of him,** not believing that he really was a disciple. 27**But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles.** ... speaking boldly ... he talked and debated with the Grecian Jews, but **they tried to kill him.** 30When the brothers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. Acts 9:1-30 NIV

### Follow Saul's Pattern

#### ❖ Get Very Real About Jesus

**When I saw him, I fell at his feet** as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, **“Don't be afraid!** I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. **I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever!** And I hold the keys of death and the grave.”

Revelation 1:17-18 NLT

#### ❖ Get Very Real About Me

When **we were utterly helpless,** Christ died for the ungodly. ... **God showed his great love for us** by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

Romans 5:6-8 NLT, NIV

#### ❖ Get Very Real About Serving Him

**Keep putting into practice** all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.

Phillipians 4:9 NLT

**Pattern your lives after mine,** and learn from those who follow our example.

Phillipians 3:17 NLT

**“Yes, Lord”**

Acts 9:10 NIV

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NIV - New International Version

NIrV - New International Readers' Version

CEV - Contemporary English Version

CPV - Cotton Patch Version

G W V - God's Word Version

NLT - New Living Translation

MSG - The Message

NCV - New Century Version

Amp - Amplified Bible

WSV - Word on the Street Version