



Rock Point Church  
Daniel Goulding | 09.17.2023

**BIG IDEA | *CHANGED* people *CHANGE* people.**

**“Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what He is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on; you knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised. But presently He starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make any sense. What on earth is He up to? The explanation is that He is building quite a different house from the one you thought of - throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards. You thought you were being made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it Himself.”**

**— C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity***

**Acts 9:19b-22 (NLT)**

<sup>19</sup> Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days. <sup>20</sup> And immediately he began preaching about Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is indeed the Son of God!”

<sup>21</sup> All who heard him were amazed. “Isn’t this the same man who caused such devastation among Jesus’ followers in Jerusalem?” they

asked. “And didn’t he come here to arrest them and take them in chains to the leading priests?”

<sup>22</sup> Saul’s preaching became more and more powerful, and the Jews in Damascus couldn’t refute his proofs that Jesus was indeed the Messiah.

### **Acts 22:3-5 (NLT)**

<sup>3</sup> Then Paul said, “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, and I was brought up and educated here in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. As his student, I was carefully trained in our Jewish laws and customs. I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did, just like all of you today. <sup>4</sup> And I persecuted the followers of the Way, hounding some to death, arresting both men and women and throwing them in prison. <sup>5</sup> The high priest and the whole council of elders can testify that this is so. For I received letters from them to our Jewish brothers in Damascus, authorizing me to bring the followers of the Way from there to Jerusalem, in chains, to be punished.”

### **Jesus changes our *PURPOSE*.**

### **Acts 9:23-30 (NLT)**

<sup>23</sup> After a while some of the Jews plotted together to kill him. <sup>24</sup> They were watching for him day and night at the city gate so they could murder him, but Saul was told about their plot. <sup>25</sup> So during the night, some of the other believers lowered him in a large basket through an opening in the city wall.

<sup>26</sup> When Saul arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to meet with the believers, but they were all afraid of him. They did not believe he had truly become a believer! <sup>27</sup> Then Barnabas brought him to the apostles and

told them how Saul had seen the Lord on the way to Damascus and how the Lord had spoken to Saul. He also told them that Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus in Damascus.

<sup>28</sup> So Saul stayed with the apostles and went all around Jerusalem with them, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. <sup>29</sup> He debated with some Greek-speaking Jews, but they tried to murder him. <sup>30</sup> When the believers heard about this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him away to Tarsus, his hometown.

### **Jesus changes our *PROBLEMS*.**

#### **2 Corinthians 11:23-33 (NLT)**

<sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? I know I sound like a madman, but I have served him far more! I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. <sup>26</sup> I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. <sup>27</sup> I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.

<sup>28</sup> Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of my concern for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak without my feeling that weakness? Who is led astray, and I do not burn with anger?

<sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I would rather boast about the things that show how weak I am. <sup>31</sup> God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, who is worthy of eternal praise, knows I am not lying. <sup>32</sup> When I was in Damascus, the governor under King Aretas kept guards at the city gates to catch me. <sup>33</sup> I had to be lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall to escape from him.

**Jesus changes our *PERSPECTIVE*.**

**Acts 9:31 (NLT)**

<sup>31</sup> The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.