

Let It Go

HOW WE CHANGE

Acts 9:19-25

EXPLORING THE SERMON

- * What did you hear?
- * What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- * What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

KEY VERSES

and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." ²¹All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" ²²Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus^[a] was the Messiah.^[b] ²³After some time had passed, the Jews plotted to kill him, ²⁴but their plot became known to Saul. They were watching the gates day and night so that they might kill him, ²⁵but his disciples took him by night and let him down through an opening in the wall,^[c] lowering him in a basket.

This week, we we begin to see how this story unfolds and includes others besides Ananias and Saul. Thinking back over these last three weeks of this series, discuss what patterns you've noticed in each of these three areas: **Solitude** - how has your conversation with God opened up? **Community** - how have you gained clarity through others? **Service** - Who is our missional God sending you to this year?

The main characteristic that does not change for Saul is his passion and zeal. He is still a teacher, scholar, and natural leader - just with a different mission. We are each wired in certain ways that God also does not want to change in order to impact the world around us. **What are the key features that people would say define YOU? How do you think God wants to use you without changing who are are?**

In looking at how God has changed Saul, we can learn what this means for each of us this year:

- 1) Saul's framework for faith has changed. It takes an amazing humility, faith and strength to have your framework rewired as an adult. **How do you see God re-wiring your framework?**
- 2) Saul is lowered down in a basket by his disciples to escape those plotting against him (v. 25). Saul has been given the gift of a new community. **Who are the people you are investing time in? Who is investing time in you?**
- 3) Saul goes from being the hunter to the hunted. He had to give up his role as a leader among the Pharisees in order to embrace what God wanted for him. **What do you sense God calling you away from, or to lay down this year?**