

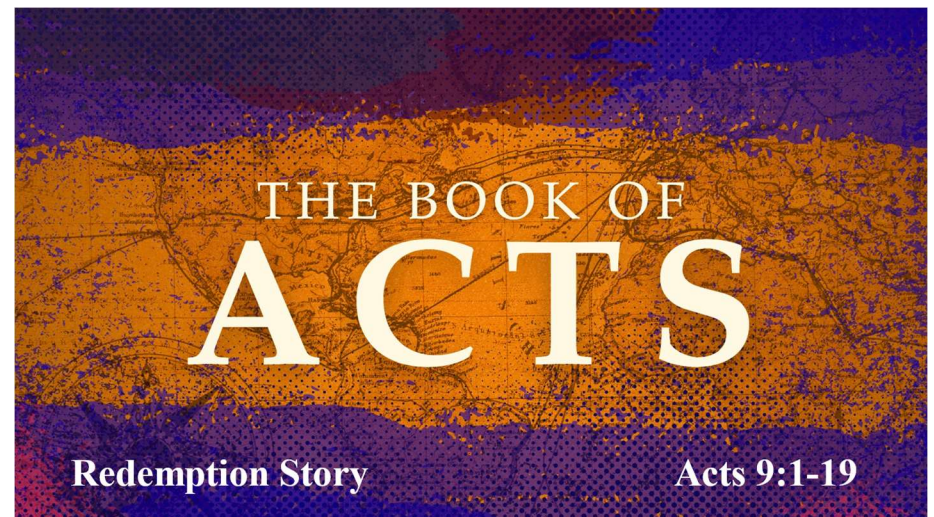
## Vs. 17-19 – The Gospel Can Soften the Hardest of Hearts

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1. How does Ananias address Saul when he meets him? Why is this surprising?
2. What evidence do we see that Saul's heart has truly been changed?
3. Read Ephesians 2:1–5. How does Paul describe our condition before Christ?
4. How does Saul's story encourage you not to give up praying for hard-hearted people?

**CALVARY**  
— O X N A R D —

# Sermon Discussion Points for



Calvary Chapel Groups

Sunday, January 4, 2025

# First

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## Read Acts 9:1-19

In these verses, we witness the redemption story of Saul of Tarsus who is converted from being a brutal persecutor of believers to becoming a disciple of Jesus. In these verses, we discover God's heart for lost people and the power of the gospel to save them.

## Vs. 1-4 – Saul Was a Persecutor of the Church

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1. How is Saul described at the beginning of Acts 9? What stands out about his attitude and actions?
2. Why do you think Saul genuinely believed he was serving God, even while persecuting Christians?
3. Jesus asks Saul, "Why are you persecuting *me*?" What does this reveal about Jesus' relationship with His Church?
4. Before coming to Christ, how were you "on a path" that needed to be interrupted by Jesus?

## Vs. 5-9 – Jesus Came to Save Sinners

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1. Why do you think Jesus chose to confront Saul rather than destroy him?
2. How does Saul's physical blindness reflect his spiritual condition?

3. Read 1 Timothy 1:15–16. Why does Paul call himself the "foremost" (worst) of sinners?
4. What are some subtle ways we fall into comparing our sin with others instead of measuring ourselves against God's holiness? How does this kind of pride work against sharing the gospel with "tough cases?"

## Vs. 10-16 - God Uses Common Believers to Win the Lost

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1. What fears or objections does Ananias raise when God tells him to go to Saul?
2. Why is it significant that Ananias is described simply as a "disciple"?
3. What does this passage teach us about God's ability to use ordinary, unnamed believers to share the gospel?
4. What fears or excuses most often keep us from being used by God?

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