

GROUPS

sermon guide

RIOTS & RIVALS - 07/27/2025 (Marie Carlson)

MAIN IDEA

LIVING CULTURED TO BEING CAPTURED

TALK ABOUT IT

- What does it mean to be culturally influenced in your faith versus "captured" by Christ?
- Reflection: In what areas of your life are you more influenced by culture than by conviction?
- What expectations do you need to let go of in order to fully recognize and follow Jesus?
- What does Saul's immediate response after conversion tell us about urgency in living on mission?
- Saul didn't wait until he had a theology degree—he shared what he already knew. What keeps people—and you—from doing the same today?
- How could the Pharisees who studied Scripture so deeply still miss Jesus? What does that reveal about the importance of the heart versus just head knowledge?
- How does real connection to Jesus reorder your identity and priorities?
- What does your time with Jesus look like during the week? How are you creating space to be captured by Him?
- Saul was initially rejected by the believers in Jerusalem. Why do you think that happened, and how do we deal with fear and skepticism in our community today?
- What's the difference between attending church and being part of the Church?
- Where do you need deeper connection right now: with Jesus, with people, or both?
- Why do we need both the fear of the Lord and the encouragement of the Holy Spirit to stay committed?
- What's one area of your life where God is calling you to be fully committed, regardless of others' opinions?

KEY SCRIPTURES

Acts 9:19-31

NEXT STEPS

- **ECOUNTER:**
 - Join us at one of our Sunday services: 8:30am, 10am & 11:30am
 - *ASL and Spanish interpretation during our 10:00am service*
- **EXPERIENCE**
 - Find your community this summer through Gather Groups! Check out our new August offerings & sign-up on our website.
- **EXPAND**
 - River Baptisms - Sunday, August 17th at 5:00pm at Walla Walla Park.
 - If you are interested in getting baptized, sign up on our events section of the website.

GOING DEEPER

- **Reflection:** If you were fully "captured" by Christ's mission, what specific shifts would show up in your daily choices, conversations, and priorities?
- **Journal:** If someone followed you for a week, what would they conclude you're most captured by—and how does that align with who you say Jesus is in your life?
- **Application:** What's one practical and visible step you can take this week to either get on mission or get connected—and who can you invite to help you stay accountable?