



Sunday Morning, July 19, 2020 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

**Message Title:** Nothing Overcomes Jesus

**Message Text:** Acts 9:23-31

**Introduction:** Saul has turned to Christ and by the power of the Spirit has become a powerful witness of the Gospel. While evil men would seek to silence this new, bold voice for Christ, Jesus would overcome the plot and continue to build His church.

## 1. A Plot to \_\_\_\_\_ (23-25)

NOTE: When the world persecutes Christians, they are really persecuting the Christ they see in us.

*Philippians 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;*

*2 Timothy 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

### A. A Faithful \_\_\_\_\_ (23a)

*Acts 9:23 And after that many days were fulfilled...*

*Galatians 1:17 Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus.*

*1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

QUOTE: Lord, help me to be what you made me to be.  
— Char Batteas, Prayer Call

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## B. A Collaborative \_\_\_\_\_ (23b-24)

*Acts 9:23–24 ...the Jews took counsel to kill him: 24 But their laying await was known of Saul. And they watched the gates day and night to kill him.*

DEFINITION—TOOK COUNSEL: plot

The Jews (religious leaders) plotted in joint effort with the Roman Government.

*2 Corinthians 11:32–33 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: 33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.*

*Luke 6:22 Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.*

DEFINITION—BLESSED: highly favor (as by divine grace)

## C. A Total \_\_\_\_\_ (25)

*Acts 9:25 Then the disciples took him by night, and let him down by the wall in a basket.*

DEFINITION—DISCIPLES: followers of Christ (see v. 19)

QUOTE: He had entered the city blind and left in a basket! — Toussaint

QUOTE: It was an ignominious exit, but Saul was now a broken man anyway, and broken men can endure reproach for Christ's sake that others would shun. —MacDonald

*Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

*Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*

## 2. A Problem with \_\_\_\_\_ (26-30)

**Acts 9:26** *And when Saul was come to Jerusalem...*

**A. A Desire to \_\_\_\_\_ (26)**

*Acts 9:26 ...he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.*

DEFINITION—JOIN HIMSELF: *to attach oneself v. — to establish a relationship with someone.*

The *preconceived* assumptions of the church members toward Saul stopped them from *welcoming* him into their fellowship.

**B. A \_\_\_\_\_ to Need (27)**

*Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.*

NOTE: Barnabas saw in Saul what no one else would see.

*2 Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

**C. A \_\_\_\_\_ from which to Serve (28-30)**

*Acts 9:28 And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem.*

Coming In / Going Out — Daily Activity of the Church

We reach our full potential as servants of Christ when we are *attached* to the body.

DEFINITION—BOLDLY: *to speak boldly; to speak honestly and straightforwardly (as without fear).*

*Acts 9:29–30 And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. 30 Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus.*

**3. A \_\_\_\_\_ of the Church (31)**

NOTE: This is the third of seven progress reports given by Luke on the advance of the church. There was growth spiritual and numerically.

(See Acts 2:47; 6:7; 12:24; 16:5; 19:20; 28:30–31)

**A. There was \_\_\_\_\_ (31a)**

*Acts 9:31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria...*

Definition—Rest: peace; harmonious relations and freedom from disputes; especially during the absence of war.

**B. There was \_\_\_\_\_ (31b)**

*Revelation 3:17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*

*Acts 9:31b ...and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost...*

EDIFIED—*Colossians 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving*

WALKING—*Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*

**C. There was \_\_\_\_\_ (31c)**

*Acts 9:31c ...were multiplied.*

*1 Corinthians 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.*

**Conclusion**

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