

Chapter 8

The pastor preached from Acts 9, about Saul on the road to Damascus. He spoke of how Saul was a very religious man who had grown up in the Jewish faith. He knew his bible and he knew he was a powerful defender of the faith.

“Or so he thought,” the pastor said, “but Saul had known God without truly seeing him. God stopped Saul’s religious life on the road to Damascus and afflicted him. If he had hardened his heart and not obeyed when God told him to go to Damascus and wait, if he had kicked against the Lord’s will, he would’ve remained in his blindness. God’s Word would still have gone forth but through someone else. Thankfully Saul obeyed and gave up his religion to faithfully follow the Christ.”

As the pastor brought his message home to his congregation, Heather knew he was talking to her.

“It is easy,” he pointed out, “for those of us who grow up in the church to be so religious that we lose our focus on God. But he will meet us on our Damascus road. When we’re ready for the scales to be removed from our eyes so we can follow Christ in faith instead of simply in religion, he will send

our Ananias to bring the words, the touch that will restore us to God. Only then will we go onward, serving the Lord in true power as we serve from our weakness and God's strength."