

Series on the conversion of the Apostle Paul – sermon 3 - 27/03/11 (am)

# **Brought to Conversion**

Acts 26:1-18

*Theme: In bringing a person to conversion Jesus singles out, draws and personally confronts that person.*

Saul's conversion was spectacular but  
it contains the essential factors that  
**lead to** and **constitute** all conversions.

# Factors leading to the Conversion of Saul of Tarsus

Saul sought an extradition order from the High Priest. Jerusalem to Damascus was about 150 miles. Near the end of the journey Jesus appeared to Saul. The result of the encounter was Saul's conversion.

Three *essential* factors led to Paul's conversion:

**1. Saul was singled out by Jesus  
(26:14a).**

God always deals personally in salvation.

(Abraham, Genesis 12:1; Jacob, Romans 9:10-13; Lydia, Acts 16:14.)

It is God's gracious work by the Holy Spirit. (John 3:8; Galatians 1:15-16)

*Has Jesus singled you out?*

## 2. Saul was drawn to Jesus (26:14b).

While he was persecuting Christians, and probably before it, the Lord was drawing Saul to Himself.

Proof? Saul had been *kicking against the goads*.

What does this mean?

A goad was a 10 ft. pole with a spike at one end and a chisel at other. If an ox stubbornly kicked back it was prodded with the spike until it obeyed.

How might Jesus have been goading Saul?

- Knowledge of Jesus and His teaching. Had Saul met Jesus before the crucifixion?
- Witness of Stephen, *cf.* Acts 7:58.
- The witness of other Christians.
- Saul struggled with covetousness, *cf.* Romans 7:7.

This is God's way with any individual.  
He goads, draws each rebel, *cf.* John  
6:44.

# What goads does God use today?

- His Word. Knowledge of God's love/wrath, reality of Heaven/Hell.
- Witness of other Christians.
- Circumstances of life cause us to take stock, ponder, reflect, think.

*Are you conscious of being drawn to the Lord?*

### **3. Saul was personally confronted by Jesus (26:14-18).**

Saul was on the way to Damascus hunting Christians but he was being hunted ... by Jesus.

Before a person converts he/she is personally confronted by Jesus through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit shows you your need of Christ.

*Are you being confronted by Jesus?*

# Conclusion

- 1. Christian, are you gaining a deeper understanding of God's gracious dealings with you in your conversion?*

Praise Him and be glad!

*2. Christian, are you learning that no one should ever be written off as being beyond the love of Christ?*

**Keep on praying!**

3. Is Jesus Christ confronting you?

Stop kicking against the goads! Submit to His Lordship. Say, *Lord I believe. I come to you in repentance and faith. What do you want me to do?*