

Connect Lesson June 19-20, 2022
Pastor Paul Daugherty
“Acts 8”

Message Recap

I. Scales

Whether it is from trauma in our past, our upbringing, sin that we are hiding, or just wrong thinking or believing, like Saul, we all have scales on our eyes from time to time. These scales keep us from seeing things the way they really are—the way God sees them. When scales fall off, we get our vision back. We see the truth where we were once deceived. Our perspective changes. And when we have a new perspective, we can change what our attention is focused on. Attention equals direction and direction equals destination. In order to have those scales removed, we must have a real encounter with Jesus, just like Saul did on the road to Damascus.

II. 3 Truths About Scales

1. We all have scales sometimes and they need to be removed
2. We all need Jesus in our lives and we need Him to continue working in us after salvation
3. Jesus loves us even when we have scales (when we are wrong)
4. Jesus wants to set us free from our scales

III. How We Are Changed

1. The Light of Jesus (His Presence)
2. The Words of Jesus (Every day and through His Word)
3. The deliverance of Jesus (The moments of revelation)
4. The purpose of Jesus (The mission and plan for your life)
5. The people of Jesus (The community that shapes and supports you)

Read and Discuss

Read Acts 9

1. What stands out to you about Saul's conversion?
2. Have you ever dealt with "scales" in your life? How did God remove those scales?
3. What was Saul's part to play in the scales being removed?
4. What is our part to play in helping others' scales fall, even if they have wronged us?
5. Look at Part III. of the lesson. Discuss how these are active in your life.

Scripture Reading

Acts 9:1-9

Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?"

⁵ "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. ⁶ "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

¹⁰ In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

¹¹ The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. ¹² In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

¹³ "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name."

¹⁵ But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. ¹⁶ I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.