

Sermon One

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24 August 2008

Kimberley

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ACTS 9 – DEVOTIONAL MESSAGES FOR THE SYNOD 24 AUGUST 2008
SYNOD KIMBERLEY ACTS 9: 1 – 17: 24 August 2008

Saul consented to the stoning and death of Stephen. And on that day a **great persecution** arose against **the Church – the community of Christ's followers** in Jerusalem; And they were all scattered throughout the region of Judea and Samaria, except for the apostles. But Paul was **ravaging (verniet, verwoes, plunder)** the Church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.(Acts 8:1ff.)

But Paul still breathing **threats and murder** Cherishing within himself a reservoir of **hatred and murderous thoughts and plans against the ekklesia - against the disciples of the Lord**, went to the **High Priest**. See his influence – see his affiliation - and he asked the High Priests to give to him **LETTERS(epistolas – authority = that power be invested in him to do what he deems necessary to do.)** to the **synagogues in Damascus**, so that if he found **ANY BELONGING** to the Way (**NOT BY MISTAKE WE FOUND THEM WITHIN THE SYNAGOGUE - but belonging**, men or women (**andras kai gunaikas**) he might bring them **bound(as prisoners)** to Jerusalem.(die **berugte(notorious)** Jerusalem) - court cases are awaiting them and the result? (handcuffs, dehumanized – self-justification – to eradicate the worship of the Lord.; to interrupt and destroy the services within the synagogue-(They destroyed Stephen already). To destroy the Church. He is a revolutionary danger.
The court of Law is awaiting the outcome of this visitation of Saul.

Armed with the epistolas(the letters – as his passport) he journeyed to **Damascus**. And suddenly a **light from heaven** flashed around him.

And he fell to the ground- **the brave man is in the dust of the earth**. Others were supposed to fall and be dragged through the dust roads to Jerusalem. Now, Saul is in the dust and heard a voice saying to him – addressed to him – not generally speaking – particularly addressing Saul: “Saul, Saul, **why do you persecute me?**” **Why? Tell me – give me a reason!!!! He does not answer the Lord's question....**

And Paul said:” **Who are you Lord?**” And He said : “**I am Jesus whom you are persecuting;..... (Dit is vir jou hard om teen die prikkels te skop-this is an insertion into the Afrikaans translation)**

Saul gave no reason to the why of Jesus...Why...Why....Why...Saul.... Why? Christ does not keep on to demand an answer.....

Instead the Lord said: But rise “anastaeithi”(The Lord who caused him to drop to the ground command him to rise) **and enter the city as your original purpose was. But Enter it on my command and you will be told what you are to do. You will be told within the city. Saul says nothing on his original mission , actual visit to Damascus – He said nothing!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Saul had a mission – a devastating mission – power has been invested in **LETTERS** and he will be the executor of the contents of those **LETTERS.....(Nowhere were these Letters ever addressed again - it is a non-entity – non-existent – powerless. The Lord – the power of the Lord eradicated the power invested in those Letters.**