

Sightless Saul!

‘For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything’ Acts 9:9

NUGGET – From seeing the light of day to seeing the Light of God, Saul, on his way to Damascus, is left blind. We’ve all had the experience of looking to much at the sun or a bright light and know what it is to have temporary ‘blindness’, to have our ability see interrupted by too much light. But this is more than that, this is a divine blindness.

This is being blinded by the light of God. What an irony isn’t it? To be seeking to follow God and to have God reveal Himself, but then to be left blind. Yet Saul was seeking to be faithful to the light, the illumination of God, as he knew it. But when the true light is seen, now he’s left unable to see *anything* anymore. The very light of God has left him blind. And not just a brief momentary thing either, but for 3 days, *3 days!*

There’s the connection to Jesus being in the grave 3 days in this blindness of Saul’s. Jesus also had no food or water those 3 days. We’re told that Saul was taken by the hand and led to a house where he sat blind, hungry and thirsty for those 3 days. When in that time he had the vision of Ananias coming to release him from this prison of darkness we’re not told. But for how ever long it was, we can only imagine the shock and confusion Saul must have gone through.

Why didn’t Jesus heal Saul the same way He’d blinded him?

- Perhaps to show that God uses means, people, to carry out His work
- Perhaps to let the church begin to understand that God will use Saul
- Perhaps to teach Saul that he will not work as a ‘solo act’ that his work depends on others

Whatever the case, in letting Saul sit blind, hungry and thirsty for 3 days, Jesus is giving Saul a practical lesson in what it means to go from death to life in what transpires here. Saul is living through the death to his former life in a way many of us never experience. We can only imagine how he endured this trial.

And further in all this Saul is learning to depend on Jesus working through His church in all that he does. It is a disciple of Jesus who comes, at the Lord’s insistence, and at the command of Jesus restores Saul’s sight. Saul does not ‘self-heal’, that takes the working of the Lord through His faithful follower Ananias.

Notice that Ananias wants to make clear to Saul that the Lord is Jesus! That the Lord that sent him to Saul is that same Jesus Who appeared to Saul on the road. Ananias’ words to Saul are comfort, confirmation and the conferring of the blessing of the Holy Spirit on Saul. From now on Saul’s life, after coming through his 3 days of ‘death’, his life is now under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Without being told specifically that Saul ‘believed’ but received the Holy Spirit we learn that God chooses to grant his gift of faith in ways beyond what we can put into one specific formula.

APPLICATION -

1. Draw on Saul’s experience of sitting blind, hungry and thirsty for three days to imagine what it means for your old self, your old nature to die with Christ in the grave. Find a few moments to sit quietly with your eyes closed, maybe even do so instead of eating one meal, and ponder what such a 3 day experience might bring to you in understanding new life in Christ.

PRAY – Then give some time in prayer that God grant His gift of new life in Christ to you, become a truer reality in your daily doings.