

Wednesday 22nd July 2020

Acts 9: 1-4

“¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the LORD's disciples. He went to the high priest ²and 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. ³As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?’”

The principal of true contrition is that you completely do a u turn on how you behave. This is exactly what occurred on the way to Damascus. Lots of things were making, Saul stop and think, so much so he did a complete u turn on what he thought about God, Jesus, even the resurrection, and all who walked in Jesus's footsteps. He must have been totally bewildered. After all he believed Jesus was dead, he now knew that actually, Jesus was alive. He had found that Jesus knew who he was and what his behaviour had been like. He realised there was no way that he would or could be above the Lord. He had met his equal and more. But he was genuine in his remorse for his deeds and turned to be with and walk the Lord's path.

We as Christians sometimes ask why Jesus can be so good and let such people as Saul whose ways had left a lot to be desired come into Gods way. I am sure we can be judgemental but then if we are true Christians we must share and accept the genuine turn to faith, and love, as a friend, in Christ. There are lots of paths to the true life lived in faith and it's the grace of God that brings the u turns in the lives He wishes to save as his own. We are not the judges. We need to have the same loving grace for anyone who comes and asks and seeks for Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." In our worship today, let us search, knock and ask.