

# SERMON NOTES

Sunday 4 May

sunnysidechurch

**Bible passages: Acts 9.1-20 and Luke 24.13-35**

## Introduction

- Story of how Paul became a witness for Jesus
- Tells the story in court Acts 22 and 26
- Story about journeys, blindness and courage

## 1. Journeys

- Saul travelling to Damascus to persecute Christians when radical encounter with Jesus
- Spiritual journey of transformation of identity and purpose
- Cp Road to Emmaus

## 2. Blindness

- Saul blind until Ananias comes to see him
- Jesus healed blind to demonstrate reality that some see who he is and others blind to him
- Encountering Jesus through Bible, worship and one another that will see more clearly who Jesus is

## 3. Courage

- Both Ananias and Saul show great courage because trust in God
- We are unlikely to be in chains but takes courage to trust in God and be faithful followers of Jesus

## Conclusion

How might we be encouraged and challenged by this story of transformational journeys, recovery of sight and courage to trust Jesus today?

Some questions to discuss

1. How did you come to follow Jesus? Was it a dramatic thing or a more gradual process?
2. Read Acts 9.1-20. What do you notice?
3. In what ways was Paul spiritually blind before he encountered Jesus?
4. Trusting Jesus takes courage? In what ways have you found this to be true?
5. Read Luke 24.13-35. In what ways is this story similar to and different from the journey Paul took?
6. Paul, Cleopas and his companion immediately told others about their encounters with Jesus. Who might God be calling you to witness to this week?
7. What is God asking you to do as a result of what he has said to you through these passages? It might be something to pray about, something to think more about, something he wants you to talk to someone about or something he wants you to do. Make a note of it so you don't forget!

Paul wrote: 'For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified' (1 Corinthians 2.2).

Why not spend some time thanking Jesus that he died for us and asking him to help us keep him at the centre of our lives this week?

Revd Rebecca Fardell