

Sermon Handout

I Once Was Blind

Acts 9:1-9

I. The Mission to Damascus

- a. Saul pursuing the diaspora Christians vv. 1-2
 - i. Those who escaped Jerusalem 8:1, 3; 22:5; 9:13; 26:11
 - ii. Both men and women 8:3; 9:2; 22:4
- b. Instrument of the High Priest v. 2a; 22:5
 - i. A man of the Diaspora 22:3; Phil 3:5
 - ii. Full of zeal for YHWH 22:3; Phil 3:6; Gal 1:13-14

II. A Conversion on the Damascus Road

- a. Echoes Philip's trip down the Gaza road 8:26-29
- b. Details in three accounts
 - i. Initial description 8:3-22
 - ii. First hand account in Jerusalem 22:3-16
 - iii. Before Agrippa and Festus 26:4-18

III. The Blinding of Saul

- a. Jesus heals the blind Mt 11:3-5; Lk 7:20-27
Is 35:5; 42:6-7; 29:28
- b. Here Jesus takes sight away
To give a truer vision "I will show him . . ." v. 16
- c. Saul, who brought suffering to the church will suffer for Jesus
9:13-14, 16; II Cor 11:23-27