

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 9 23-31



For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears and my feet from falling.  
I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.  
Psalm 116:7-8

## **Praising:**

Lord your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps  
show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

## **Reading:**

Acts 9:23-31  
Saul becomes a target

Paul implies in Galatians that his first visit to Jerusalem as a Christian was three years after his conversion. But there is no sign yet of his former Jewish sponsors having forgiven him for what they plainly saw as a grave spiritual betrayal. Saul now finds his own life threatened by the

very people he had previously been trying to kill for. This is only the start of Saul's swashbuckling adventures, but already he is being rescued by rope and basket down the side of the city wall in Damascus. Waiting for him in Jerusalem, understandably, is deep suspicion – until Barnabas feels led to take his side and encourage the apostles to trust him. Next Saul is ushered to Caesarea and then to Tarsus his home city, where, presumably, he presents himself as a man transformed by Christ.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Save us Lord from cynicism and disbelief

- when we're tempted to mistrust that conversion in someone is real and sincere
- when we find it hard to allow that people we know can ever really be any different
- when we say of those who claim their lives have changed for ever: that won't last

Father: I praise you for lives you have transformed beyond all recognition. Forgive me for those times when I have held back myself – for fear of the same thing happening to me. Amen

## **Doing:**