

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 9 1-9



Sing to the Lord, you servants of his; give thanks to his holy name.  
For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye, his favour for a lifetime.  
Psalm 30:4-5

## **Praising:**

Christ is the world's true light,  
its captain of salvation,  
the day-star shining bright,  
to all in every nation:  
new life, new hope awakes  
when we accept his way;  
freedom her bondage breaks  
and night is turned to day.

## **Reading:**

Acts 9:1-9  
God stops Saul in his tracks

The Roman Empire allowed the Jews to extradite offenders. Evidently Saul sought to make the most of this formal legal arrangement in his violent mission to snuff out the Jesus movement before it can get a proper foothold. The Way was one of the earliest names for Christianity and it reveals that the followers of Jesus thought they

had discovered the one true way of the Lord. Saul is equally convinced that they are mistaken. The only thing that can turn Saul from his murderous path is God himself. The most revealing detail in what God says to Saul, is that in persecuting the disciples Saul is actually persecuting Jesus. To mistreat the followers of Christ, in other words, is to mistreat Christ. What that means, is that if we suffer for Jesus, he suffers with us.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

When opposition comes Lord, we pray for your grace

- to follow the example of Jesus, and resist the temptation to lash out in self-defence
- to pray for those attacking us, whose hearts and minds are cold to your love
- to suffer in the knowledge that we are not alone, that Jesus shares our pain

Father: when the insults start flying and they call me all the names of the day, remind me that in Christ you have heard it all before, and by your Spirit you are with me to hear it all again. Amen

## **Doing:**

Wednesday, 04 May 2016