

# Walking Through the New Testament with Paul the Apostle by His Life and Pen

**LESSON NO. 23** - Please read again Acts 9: Saul's encounter with Jesus.

**Theme of this Lesson:** Have you seen Jesus?

Jesus will only be correctly seen as King of Kings and Lord of Lords AFTER first understanding Him to be the suffering servant who came to be our Savior. He became Savior by paying the death penalty due to us for our sins, which we commit against Holy God and fellow human beings.

Nearly 2000 years ago three men were sentenced by the Roman authorities to die. Two of the men were examined, tried in court and sentenced to death for rebellion, theft and murder. The other Man sentenced to die with them was examined in multiple trials and declared innocent of any wrongdoing. Yet this Man, Jesus, was also sentenced to be killed by crucifixion. The placard placed on the cross upon which Jesus was crucified simply declared this truth: THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS, Luke 23:38.

Jesus was killed that day, rose three days later from the dead and was placed by God as King and Lord over all the universe. [See Ephesians 1:20]

What you believe to be true about Jesus Christ determines where you will spend all eternity, either in heaven with Him or in hell suffering eternal death and punishment.

One must "see" Jesus through the eyes of faith to be able to trust and believe His words.

In our past lessons we have referred to Saul [Paul] of Tarsus' experience with Jesus on the road to Damascus which totally changed Saul's hardened heart of hatred against Jesus to ardent love.

Acts 9:3-9 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" And he said, "**Who are You, Lord?**" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads." So he, trembling and astonished, said, "**Lord, what do You want me to do?**" Then the Lord said to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one. Then Saul arose from the ground, and when his eyes were opened he saw no one. But they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And he was three days without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Let's look at Isaiah's record of seeing Jesus.

Isaiah 6:1-8 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "**Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.**" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

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Question No. 1. Will all Christians have a similar visual encounter with Jesus?

Answer. No, but all Christians MUST see the true Jesus recorded in Scripture through the eyes of saving faith.

Let's look at some examples to help us fix this truth clearly in our minds.

Martha - John 11:23-27 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "**Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.**"

John 12:3,7 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. vs 7 But Jesus said, "**Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.**"

Luke 23:39-43 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us." But the other, answering, rebuked him, saying, "Do you not even fear God, seeing you are under the same condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds; but this Man has done nothing wrong." Then he said to Jesus, "**Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.**" And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Lydia - Acts 16:13-15 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there. Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The **Lord opened her heart** to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when **she and her household were baptized**, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

The Philippian Jailer - Acts 16:29-34 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, "**Sirs, what must I do to be saved?**" So they said, "**Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved**, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately **he and all his family were baptized**. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.

Question No. 2: "Why do I love Jesus so much?"

Answer: It is so simple, "Jesus said I could come with Him to heaven. In fact He said the **whoever desires can COME! . . . and that includes you. Do you want to go with Jesus?**"

If you ever feel down or discouraged about your salvation, take your Bible and do a quick study of the "WHOEVER'S" in Scripture. Following are a few of the verses.

Matthew 10:32 "Therefore **whoever** confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

John 11:26 And **whoever** lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

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Acts 10:43 To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, **whoever** believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

Romans 10:11 For the Scripture says, “**Whoever** believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

1 John 4:15 **Whoever** confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.

John 6:37-40 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, “**Come!**” And let him who hears say, “**Come!**” And let him who thirsts come. **Whoever** desires, let him take the water of life freely.

Summary: ALL humanity will see Jesus Christ either in the viewpoint of Criminal No. 1 or Criminal No. 2 resulting in one of two eternal destinations. Criminal No. 1 saw Jesus as a helpless buffoon to be mocked and laughed at. He will perish in hell forever. Criminal No. 2 saw Jesus as King and Lord. He will live with Him forever in joy.

Do you see Jesus as the King? If not, do not let another moment pass without crying out like Criminal No. 2, “. . . **this Man has done nothing wrong...Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom**”. And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” - Luke 23:41-43.

What would the Criminal on the Cross say in heaven if someone asked, 'How did you get into heaven?'

What do you think? The ONLY ANSWER that this convicted Criminal could truthfully give was: "**The MAN on the middle cross said I could come!**"

What is your view of Jesus Christ? Do you likewise believe this to be true for you?

Dearest Reader, we have been called to the sweetest, greatest work which any person could ever engage in. This work will result in unimaginable eternal treasure. We get to declare to everyone **The Greatest Love Story Ever Told** and ask our listeners if they would like to go to heaven with us because Jesus Christ, the MAN on the middle cross, said we could come and be with Him.

May we remember the beauty of Jesus Christ and the simplicity of the Gospel. This will give us overwhelming gratitude for each step of our heavenward journey.

We love to receive your questions. Your questions can be sent to [write2stm@gmail.com](mailto:write2stm@gmail.com) or [WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com](mailto:WasItForMeRom832@gmail.com). All our love to you in Christ - Jon + Philis