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## SERMON OUTLINE

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### Navigating a Spiritual U-Turn

Acts 9:1-31

- I. Saul's trip to Damascus: Saul, the enemy of Christ, encounters Christ (Acts 9:1-19).
  - A. Christ stops and blinds Saul (3-9).
    - 3 Days of Blindness – Time to think and understand faith in Christ (Acts 26:15-18)
  - B. Ananias lays hands on Saul who receives the Holy Spirit and is baptized (10-19).
    - Trust God with fears about serving Him.
- II. Saul in Damascus and Arabia: Saul is transformed by Christ (Acts 9:20-25).
  - A. Everyone was perplexed by Saul (9:20-22).
    - God can save and change anyone!
  - B. Saul retreats to Arabia (Galatians 1:17).
    - 3 Years of Silence – Time to connect with God and rethink everything he thought he knew.
    - God isn't in a hurry preparing us to serve.
  - C. Threat: Saul returns to Damascus and escapes in a basket when the Jews try to kill him (9:23-25).
    - Satan attacks those who used to follow him.
- III. Saul in Jerusalem: Barnabas gives Saul credibility (Acts 9:26-30).
  - A. The church was perplexed about Saul, but Barnabas endorsed him (9:26-28).
    - God always uses encouragers.
  - B. Threat: Hellenist Jews try to kill Saul but he escaped to Ceasarea/Tarsus (9:29-30).
- IV. Results: God encouraged the church by the Holy Spirit – blessing it with peace, strength, growth and godliness (Acts 9:31).