

## **“QUESTIONS JESUS ASKS: WHY ARE YOU PERSECUTING ME?”**

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### **JESUS ASKS QUESTIONS TO LEAD US INTO DEEPER TRUST IN HIM.**

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup>And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” (Acts 9:1-4)

1. **SAUL WAS RICHLY BLESSED AND STILL PERSECUTED THE CHURCH.**
  - A. **HE WAS FOCUSED ON THE OLD, NOT THE NEW.**
  - B. **HE SOUGHT JUSTICE, NOT GRACE.**
2. **HOW WE PERSECUTE JESUS TODAY:**
  - A. **WE IDENTIFY THE INSIDERS AND THE OUTSIDERS.**
  - B. **WE FORGIVE AND DON'T FORGET.**
  - C. **WE LACK DEVOTION AND ABOUND WITH PRIDE.**

And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what to do.” (Acts 9:5-6)

3. **YOU ARE EXACTLY WHO JESUS CAME TO SAVE AND MAKE NEW.**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

4. **SURRENDERING TO GOD IS NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF.**

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes. (Romans 1:16a)

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith (Philippians 3:8-9)

**BOTTOM LINE: IT IS NEVER TOO LATE FOR JESUS.**

### **GOING DEEPER**

1. Is there something in your life you believe that you are “too old to change,” or “have come too far to change now?” Pray to God to help you be honest about those things and ask His strength to make the change in you.
2. Is there someone in your life that you haven't shown enough grace to? Ask God to grant you the mindset of Jesus, and help you to act out of His strength, not yours.