

1. *Today's reading* Acts 9.1-19 A flash of light?????

Is this the Saul who we saw in Chapter 7 and 8, at the stoning of Stephen? Its certainly consistent with that picture; a man who was all out to get rid of this annoying bunch. But then, on the way to Damascus, it all changes!

For some of us that is our experience too. Some of us can tell the story of a dramatic moment in time, a profound experience, a flash of light, or whatever it was and that's it. That's the moment we became a Christian, that's the moment the light dawned, and our lives were changed for ever, but for a lot of us, that's not what happened.

For some of us our faith was inherited, from our parents or Sunday School teachers, or whoever it may be have been and, over time that faith became our own. For others we grew up in the church and can't ever name a time when God was not part of our lives. We have been Christians for ever and a day.

Whatever it may be, we all have a story to tell of how our faith began, how our faith has developed over time, how we have come to know more about God and experience more of God's love. One of the favourite songs that we sang in my Sunday School days was this:

*Tell me the old, old story,
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love;
Tell me the story simply,
As to a little child,
For I am weak and weary,
And helpless and defiled*

*....
Tell me the old, old story,
Of Jesus and His love*

The old story, is important. Whether that is the Biblical story, to which this hymn refers, or the story of our coming to faith. But what is today's story? Where do we see the love of God in today's Covid-19 world? Where do we see the love of God amidst the agonies in our hospitals, or hidden from our eyes in the care homes?

Underlying the dramatic story of Saul is the story of the men who were with him, who could see nothing of what was going on for Saul (Paul), but there's also the story of Ananias and the people in Damascus who could see the signs of God at work in Saul's life and could tell the story. Ananias, who placed his hands on Saul and told him in simple terms what had been going on. And we'll see more of that story, the story of Saul(Paul) in the coming days. But keep an eye on the people in the background, the people

who can explain things, the people who can see God at work and can tell the story. Then and now, the story of those ordinary people in the background, you and me, really matters.

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