

A Sermon Preached by
Fr. Ralph Osborne for the Third Sunday of Easter, Year C
April 18, 2010 at St. Thomas Church, Menasha, Wisconsin |
[Acts 9:1-6, \(7-20\)](#) | [Psalm 30](#) | [Revelation 5:11-14](#) | [John 21:1-19](#)

When the church first started, there was a man who was not pleased about it. His name was Saul. He was a zealous and spiritual man who defended his faith. He was a Jew and these Christians were a menace to everything a good Jewish person stood for. So, they needed to be wiped out. He did everything he could to make it miserable for someone to be a Christian. He went as far as having them killed. It was a dark time.

One day, while he was on his way to continue his good work, he gets interrupted by Jesus. It happened on the way to Damascus. He was blinded by the light. He heard a voice that asked him, "Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Jesus didn't ask Saul why he was persecuting his disciples, but why are you persecuting me.

Of course Saul asks, "who are you?" I am Jesus who you are persecuting! Now, get up and go to the city and you will be told what to do. And that's what Saul did. He sat in a house blind and did not eat for three days. This is where today's second reading comes in. My favorite telling of this is found in a song by Ken Medema called "Sitting by the window praying".

Tell the song and then sing Open my eyes that I may see....

We don't hear another word about Ananias. We know that his eyes were opened and his life was changed. That was enough. Saul, we hear about. God changes his name to Paul and he brings the good news to the Gentiles and their eyes are opened. Most of us have his life change to thank for our faith. Maybe we have a greater debt to a man who prayed by the window. None of us may have the gifts the apostle Paul had, but there isn't anyone here who can't sit by the window.