

# The Vision of Paul

by Stephen Kaung

*Stephen Kaung's sermon explores Paul's transformative vision of Jesus as Lord and the significance of the church as the body of Christ.*

**Duration:** 1:12:43

**Scripture:** Matthew 6:33, Acts 9:5-6, Acts 26:14-15, Romans 8:37, Ephesians 2:19, Hebrews 9:22

**Topics:** "Spiritual Transformation", "Gods Plan"

## Description

In this sermon, the preacher discusses the transformation of Saul, who later became known as Paul, and his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus. Saul was initially persecuting followers of Jesus, but a bright light appeared to him and he heard a voice asking why he was persecuting Jesus. The preacher explains the significance of the phrase 'kick against the goads,' which refers to resisting God's plan. The sermon emphasizes the importance of recognizing and following God's direction, even when faced with trials and challenges.

## Transcript

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]





He kicked against it. And the Lord said to him, Go. It is hard to kick against it.

You may do it many times. But eventually you have to yield to the will of God. Brothers and sisters.

Do we understand this? You know, we often think that we are free. We do not know why we are created. We do not know the purpose of our life.

We think that we can do anything we like. And that we live for ourselves. We do our work.

We are our own master. But according to the word of God, this is not true. Because God created us with a purpose.

We are here on earth to do his will. And that God's work may be done. But we do not understand it.

And one day the Lord will reveal it to us. Now when you look back to your life, probably you have gone through many trials. Probably you have gone through many unfortunate things.

Maybe many unhappy things. Things that did not agree with your will. Do you ever think that probably these are the goals? The Lord is reminding you of something.

But you reject it. You kick the dancer. Now how long are you able to do that? So, the Risen Lord said to Saul, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick the dancer.

For the first time, Saul met his master. Saul said, Lord, who are you? I acknowledge that you are my master. I cannot withstand you anymore.

But I do not know who you are. And the Lord said, I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest. You know, Paul actually never persecuted the Lord himself.

What he persecuted, whom he persecuted, were the followers of Satan. Now Saul had every reason to argue with the Risen Lord. He can argue with the Lord, saying, you are in heaven, I am on earth.

How could I persecute you? But he did not argue. Why? Because in that heavenly vision, he saw something. He saw that those who touch the followers of Jesus, touch Jesus himself.

So what is the heavenly vision he saw on the road to the Master? First, he saw that Jesus is Lord. Jesus is the Master. He is the head of all things.

He is invisible. You have to hear him. He is supreme.

He recognizes that Jesus is Lord. That is the first thing he saw. And the second thing he saw, he saw that those who are followers of Jesus, they are part of the body of Christ.

You know, the head is in heaven. But the body is on earth. And this body covers the whole earth.

Wherever there are believers, they form the body of Christ. If somebody will touch your arm, now will you be so decisive as to say, why do you touch my arm? You will say, why do you touch me? Because when you touch any part of the body, you touch the head. So relevant vision, on the road to the Master, in the heavenly vision, saw not only saw Jesus is Lord.

He saw that those who are Christ are one with Christ. Christ is the head. And all those who believe the Lord Jesus is the body.

Christ, the head. But he took upon himself. You know, two thousand years ago, when the world is in flesh, he took upon himself a body, a fleshly body, from the womb of Mary.

And in that body he lived for 33 years. And he spoke, and he taught, and he worked. Now after he was risen from the dead, and ascended up to heaven, he took upon himself a mystic body upon this earth.

And this mystic body is the Christ. And in this mystic body he continued to teach and to work. And that's what you find in the beginning of the book of Acts.

You know, Luke wrote two books in the New Testament. He wrote the gospel according to Luke. That tells the story of Jesus who lived in his fleshly body for 33 years.

And then he wrote the book of Acts. If you read the book of Acts, you will find that what he wrote is what Christ has done, continued to do, and to teach. Christ continued to teach and to do.

Now he continued to teach and to do in a mystic body. In the body of Christ. In the church today.

And saw, on the road of the masters, saw the whole thing. On the road to the masters, he met a universal man. And that universal man, the head is in heaven.

And the body fills the whole earth. And before that universal man, he had to fall down. Because that universal man is invisible.

It is invisible. This is what the law says. I will build my church upon this rock.

And the face of Hades does not prevail against it. This is what Saul saw on the road to the masters. But dear brothers and sisters, the heavenly vision does not end on the road to the masters.

We find that this vision continues on into the city of the masters. So, after he said, Lord, who are you? The second question he asked was, what should I do, Lord? You know, before he met the Lord, he was his own master. He knew what he wanted to do.

He also directed other people to do what he wanted to do. But now he completely yielded himself to Jesus as Lord. So he said, Lord, what should I do now? I don't know what to do now.

Now tell me what should I do. And you know what the law says? The law says, rise up. Go to the masters.

And there it will be told. It will tell you what to do. And when Paul opened his eyes, he couldn't see.

He was blinded by the glory of the Lord. So people had to lead him to the masters. And he lived on the street called Strait.

And in the house of Joseph, and for three days, he didn't eat. He was there fasting and sleeping. And while he was fasting and praying, the Lord revealed to another man in the city of Damascus.

His name was Ananias. You know, Ananias appeared in the Bible just once. And before this, we do not hear his name.

And after this, we do not hear him anymore. Now Ananias was a disciple of the Lord in Damascus. He was almost unknown.

And you know Saul was well known. And he was well known and he persecuted him. But Ananias was an unknown person.

And he was just a little disciple in the city of Damascus. But he had a very close relationship with the Lord. So the Lord appeared to him in a vision.

And said Ananias, Ananias said Lord, here am I. And the Lord said, Go to the street or street. And in the house of Judah, you will find a man by the name of Saul of Tarsus. And you go there.

You lay hands on him. And open his eyes. Now Ananias heard about Saul.

You know Saul was very famous. Because he persecuted the disciples of Jesus in many cities. And Ananias also heard that Saul was coming to Damascus to persecute the believers.

He came to Damascus to see the followers of Jesus. And brought them to Jerusalem to be judged. And Saul was very famous.

And Ananias heard about it. So Ananias said to the Lord, I heard from many that this man came to seize the believers. Now how could I go? If I go to him, then he will just seize me.

He will kill me. But the Lord said, you go. Because he is my chosen one.

And thank God. Ananias knew the Lord. Even though he was a little man.

Unknown. And yet he knew the Lord. And he was obedient to the Lord.

In spite of himself. In spite of what he had heard about Saul. He obeyed the Lord.

He went to the house. And when he entered into the house and he saw Saul. He laid his hands on Saul.

And he said, Brother, So, the Lord who met you on the road. Open your eyes. And immediately.

And he saw. You know the first one. Saul.

As his eyes were opened. Saul was Ananias. Feel.

Now brothers and sisters. All over this earth. All.

Were all there. On the road to the master. When Saul asked the Lord.

Lord, what do you want me to do? And the Lord said, now rise up. Go. To the nation.

Preach the gospel. Open your homes. And bring many into the kingdom of God.

Now if the Lord would tell Saul directly on the road of the master. You know what Saul would do? Be a man of strong will. Be a man of action.

Be an independent person. He will immediately rise up and begin to preach the gospel. He will travel for all the world.

And bring people to the kingdom of God. But he will be all by himself. Because he will not need anybody else.

He will be an independent person. To put it another way. Even though on the road of the master.

He saw that body. The body is composed of many members. And all the members are each dependent.

Under the head. But if the Lord is telling what to do directly. You know Saul will be an independent person.

He will preach the church. But he will not live the church life. He will be a theory person.

He will not have to live in the church. And that is the reason why. You will find that the Lord will not tell him what to do.

And instead. The Lord will allow a little man to tell him what to do. The Lord will tell what he should do to that little man.

Instead let the little man tell him what to do. Now brothers and sisters. Isn't that wonderful? Who is Ananias? Ananias is a disciple.

He was sent by the Lord to Saul. He lay hands on Saul. Now do you know what lay hands means? Lay hands means identification.

Saul and Ananias were enemies. Saul was the persecutor. Ananias was the persecutor.

They could not meet each other. Because if they met. Ananias will die in the hands of Saul.

But here you find something wonderful happen. These two enemies. They became brothers.

And Ananias. Representing the church being the master. He lay hands on Saul.

In other words. He brings Saul into the fellowship of the church. The former enemy became a dear brother in the world.

So he says Saul brother. Now I wonder. When Saul heard he was called brother.

How would he feel in his heart? Probably his heart would be broken. I the persecutor. By the grace of God.

That I should be a brother. That I should be received into the church. Brother and sister.

There is no title more tough. You know sometimes we try to call brother Mr. So-and-so. Or Teacher So-and-so.

But the dearest title. That we are brothers one to another. We are received into the church.

Rise up and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And that's what happened. The persecutor of the followers of Christ.

He was called Paul. And became Paul the Apostle. He could testify before King Agatha.

He said King Agatha. I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. It is the heavenly vision.

That explains his life and his ministry. It is the heavenly vision. That is his message.

So you know Paul's message is. His message is Jesus is Lord. His message is the church is the body of Christ.

And this body is not only spiritual but also practical. Brothers and sisters. And you'll find his whole life.

Is involved in that heavenly vision. Not only he has seen the vision. But the vision became his vocation.

Became his very life. He lived under the law of Christ. And he lived in a life of salvation.

Brothers and sisters. Even though he suffered much because of that heavenly vision. But he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision.

And he considered it as worthwhile. Now brothers and sisters. This is the vision of Paul.

And that vision killed the church. What the Lord has done for Paul. We all need.

There in our spirit we meet the risen Lord. He is not only the crucified Lord. He is the risen Lord.

He is not only the one who humble himself and kneels. He obedient even unto death. The death of the cross.

But he is now ascended above all. He is given a name that is above everything. And to his name every knee shall bow.

And every tongue shall confess that he was risen. Now this is the heavenly vision. In that heavenly vision.

He also sees what the church is. The church is not an organism. The church is an organism.

It is the body of Christ. Whoever touches the cross. The church and Christ are one.

And that is the reason why. You find in 1 Corinthians chapter 12. Verses 12 and 13.

Say in one day. You were baptized into one body. Whether Jews or Gentiles.

And you were all made to drink of one spirit. Even though we are many. Yet there is one body.

Even though the body is one. There are many members. So also is the Christ.

And you find that the body and the head are one. The church to Paul. Is not a theory.

The church to Paul is a reality. He not only preached about the church. He lived.

This is the heavenly vision. That God gave to Paul. And gave to each one of us.

We also see this heavenly vision. Not only see it. But you give Paul this heavenly vision.

And we want to thank you. That by your grace. He will give you this heavenly vision.

Dear Heavenly Father. We ask that thou too. Will give us this vision.

That we may see Jesus with love. That we may yield ourselves. And allow thee to rule over our lives.

We pray that thou also open our eyes. To see that we are not. We are members in the body of Christ.

We not only belong to thee. But we belong to one another. We need one another.

We encourage one another. We love one another. We fellowship with one another.

O Lord do open our eyes. That we may be obedient to the heavenly vision. Even though the road may be the way of the cross.

Lord we pray that by that heavenly vision. We will have this strength. That thy work may be done.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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