

The Road to Damascus

Saul's conversion with Greek chorus version

CHARACTERS: Saul, Jesus, Ananias (also a member of the Chorus), Leader, Chorus (as many as desired) and Saul's companions (as many as desired, some can double as chorus members for parts of the show)

COSTUMES: none specified

PROPS: plate, cup; flashing lights

SETTING: bare stage, or set as desired

RUN TIME: 7 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Psalms 18:28, 27:1, 36:9, 89:15; Acts 9 and 28; Mark 8:17-18, John 3:3, 8:12, 9:39, 12:35-36; Romans 7:24, 1 John 1, 2 John 1, 1 Peter 2:9

At rise: Greek choir is up center. JESUS is unseen behind CHORUS. SAUL and his companions enter stage right.

LEADER: Saul was breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples.

ANANIAS: If he found any who belonged to the Way he intended to imprison them

LEADER: As he neared Damascus a light from heaven flashed around him. (*Lights flash, companions cover their eyes, SAUL falls to the ground center stage while his companions look about confused. They MUST NOT focus on JESUS. JESUS emerges from behind the CHORUS while the lights flash*)

JESUS: Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?

SAUL: Who are you, Lord?

JESUS: I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.

INTERLUDE 1

LEADER: He is the light of the world

CHORUS: Whoever follows him will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

LEADER: He has come, so that the blind will see

CHORUS: and those who see will become blind.

JESUS: The one who looks at me

CHORUS: is seeing the one who sent Him

LEADER: Jesus came into the world as a light

CHORUS: so that no one who believes in Jesus should stay in darkness.

SAUL: (*confused*) How am I persecuting you? You're dead.

JESUS: Whatever you do to the least of one of these, you do it unto me.

SAUL: (*emphatic*) But they are wrong and I am right. I am thoroughly trained in the law. I am advancing in Judaism beyond many of my own age by studying under Gamaliel. I am a powerful speaker.

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JESUS: You may speak in the tongues of men or of angels; you may fathom all mysteries and have all knowledge, but still be nothing. Don't you know, Saul? Love does not boast; it is not proud. Love does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking.

SAUL: (*emphatically defending himself*) But I am extremely zealous for the traditions of my fathers.

JESUS: You may have a faith that moves mountains and give all you possess to the poor but if you do not have love, you gain nothing. You destroy, I am the Creator!

SAUL: (*finally getting it, heartbroken, sobbing*) What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me?

JESUS: (*placing his hands n Saul's head*) I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I am sending you to open eyes and turn them from darkness to light. Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.

(*Saul's companions help him up and lead him by hand across the stage. Saul stumbles several times. The companions seat him but SAUL instead kneels in prayer. When they try to give him food or drink he refuses it, continuing to pray. As this is being acted out, the CHORUS does interlude 2 and JESUS steps upstage to watch SAUL*)

INTERLUDE 2

CHORUS: Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.

LEADER: Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light

CHORUS: and there is nothing in them to make them stumble.

LEADER: But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness

CHORUS: and walks around in the darkness.

LEADER: They do not know where they are going

CHORUS: because the darkness has blinded them.

LEADER: For three days Saul was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

ANANIAS: (*placing his hands on Saul*) Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

SAUL: (*Standing and exclaiming with joy and amazement*) The scales have fallen from my eyes. I can see! I can see! (*praising God*) The Lord is my light and my salvation. You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

ANANIAS: You are a chosen vessel, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

SAUL: (*falling before ANANIAS and grasping ANANIAS's forearms, eager*) Show me what I must do, where I must go. I will change, I will love; I will do all God wants even if I must go to the ends of the earth.

ANANIAS: Then arise and be baptized and wash away your sins. (*ANANIAS helps him stand, they exit, JESUS moves downstage*)

EPILOGUE and INVITATION

(JESUS addresses his first line to God above; LEADER and CHORUS towards JESUS for their first four lines. Then JESUS, LEADER and CHORUS shift their focus to the audience)

JESUS: Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, God, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.

LEADER: For with you is the fountain of life

CHORUS: in your light we see light.

LEADER: The darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

CHORUS: Jesus is the light.

LEADER: Believe in the light while you have the light

CHORUS: so that you may become children of light.

LEADER: Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?

CHORUS: Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear?

LEADER: This is the message we have heard and declare to you:

CHORUS: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

LEADER: If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness

CHORUS: we lie and do not live out the truth

LEADER: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light

CHORUS: we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

LEADER: For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness

CHORUS: made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory

LEADER: displayed in the face of Christ.

JESUS: You are going to have the light just a little while longer.

CHORUS: Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you.

LEADER: Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going.

JESUS: I am the light of the world. (*holding out his arms to the audience*) Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.