



It Isn't Religion

Acts 7-9

Big Idea: Adults don't become followers of Christ by getting all their questions answered. In most instances, something happens that shrinks those questions. And that something is always personal. You don't have to understand everything to believe something.

Bottom Line: The question that shrinks all other questions is "Who is Jesus?" Your answer to that question determines the validity of all the other questions.

Introduction:

Most adults that make decisions to follow Jesus do so with lots of unanswered questions.

Instead of working through their obstacles, something often happens that shrinks their obstacles, sometimes making the obstacles irrelevant.

Tragedy, loss, brokenness, helplessness. Sometimes it is the unshakeable faith of someone else that pierces the resistance.

At some point, it becomes personal. It becomes **undeniable**.

Today, I want to address **the question** that trumps all other questions. It doesn't answer all the others. It just shrinks them.

One of the most famous men who ever lived asked this question, and in a moment he was transformed from someone who violently opposed Christianity to someone who spent the rest of his life talking about it.

The story takes place a few months after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

Thousands of people were putting their faith in Jesus and saying he had risen from the dead. Religious leaders set out to quash this uprising.

Stephen was the most outspoken among the Jesus followers. The religious leaders paid some people to accuse him of false allegations. As a result, the people dragged Stephen outside of the city and killed him—stoned him to death.

Truth:

Read: Acts 7:58 - 9:20.

The issue is not the things that trip us up.

It is more personal than that.

It is, who is Jesus?

Paul did not get his questions answered. He met his Savior.

You're not rejecting Christianity, a belief system, a way of life, a moral code, or even religion.

You are rejecting a person, Jesus Christ, the living Savior.

“Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:10-11).”

Conclusion:

If you can be *real* honest with yourself, the issue is not your unanswered questions. **It is surrender.**

If you believe Jesus is the Son of God, but have never personally embraced Him as Savior, you should do that.

Many of your questions will get answered on the other side of that decision.

Many of them will shrink to the point they just don't matter anymore.

If you are still not ready for that, but would admit there is an internal struggle that even your intellect can't quite grasp, you should at least ask, **“Who are you, Lord?”**

Application & Next Steps:

- Memorize Acts 9:5
- Surrender your life to Jesus.
- Ask “Who are you, Lord?”