

HE TOUCHED ME

Your Weekly Devotional

May 24, 2026

PAUL MEETS JESUS

READ: Acts 9:1-5, 18-20

Struck by a blinding light, he heard a voice asking, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

As we continue our journey through Acts, we have seen unimaginable beauty in the account of Pentecost and witnessed the unbelievable tragedy of martyrdom. Stephen's death served as a significant tipping point in the story of the early Church. After this, every believer had a death wish. Jewish leaders were searching for them like hunters.

Rome was not just imprisoning them; it was killing them. Stephen's riot-turned-execution served as the tipping point of the Church's story.

Look back on that terrible scene. While the crowd gathered and prepared to throw the stones, they didn't want to get their cloaks dirty. So, what did they do? They gave them to a young leader who was overseeing the stoning of Stephen. His name was Saul.

Luke points out, "The witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul" (Acts 7:58). He wasn't just present. We have reason to believe he was a participant. Saul was a murderer, but he was about to become a crucial figure in the movement called the Church.

It's important to recognize that movements often begin with the actions of a lone individual, not massive crowds. Think about ants. Yep, the little bugs that ruin picnics. However annoying, ants are intriguing little insects. It's estimated that five ants can carry up to 250 times their body weight as a group. To put this into perspective, that's like a basketball team lifting a tank or Boeing 737 Max.

In the same way, the early Church showed off its collective strength to spread the message of Jesus. Talk about a heavy weight to carry! No single person could do it alone. They needed multitudes. They needed masses. They needed a colony. Just as ants demonstrate their collective strength by working together, the Book of Acts reminds us that big moves take place in small moments. However, those small moments ultimately culminate in revival—a fancy word for when a bunch of people turn to Jesus at once, as we saw at Pentecost. Simply put, revivals are made up of many individuals.

The Apostle Luke wants to introduce you to these individuals because he is studying the growth of the Church, after all. Since expansion takes place through conversation, proclamation, and declaration, Luke intentionally wants you to know all the people who were giving their lives to Jesus and proclaiming his name.

Actually, Luke mentions over 180 individual names in his two books recounting our history as the Church. Why would he mention so many names? Shouldn't it just be God, Jesus, Stephen, and maybe Peter? He understands that Spirit-empowered individuals create a universe-shifting impact.

Dear Lord, let me become like Jesus. AMEN.



**TODAY'S
WEEKLY
DEVOTION**

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KITTY:
919-600-9352
KITTYHEGEMANN@GMAIL.COM