

Why do you persecute me?

[Mark 8:29](#)

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[Mark 8:29](#), *"But what about you?"* he asked. *"Who do you say I am?"* Peter answered, *"You are the Christ."*

You Are the Christ

Christ – The Anointed Messiah

What others are saying about Who Jesus Is

- "One encounter with Jesus Christ is enough to change you, instantly, forever." – Luis Palau
- "Each man and woman has a personal encounter with the Lord. A true and actual encounter that can radically change one's life. The secret lies not only in being aware of it, but also in never forgetting it, so as to preserve its freshness and beauty." – Pope Francis
- "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." – Pope Benedict XVI

Why do you persecute me?

[Acts 9:4b](#), *"...why do you persecute me?"*

Damasus – Fabric Weaver

1. Divine Encounter

[Acts 9:3](#), *As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.*

2. Divine Revelation

[Acts 9:5](#), *"Who are you, Lord?"* Saul asked.

Andrew:

[John 1:41](#), *The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the Messiah" (that is, the Christ).*

Nathanael:

[John 1:48-49](#), *"How do you know me?"* Nathanael asked. Jesus answered, *"I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."* ⁴⁹ Then Nathanael declared, *"Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel."*

Samaritan Woman:

John 4:25, The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us."

John 4:42, They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."

3. Divine Opportunity

Acts 9:10, In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, "**Ananias!**"

Ananias – God has Generously Given

Ephesians 5:14-20, This is why it is said: "Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Divine Transformation

Acts 9:20, At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

In case you missed it...

Answers:

1. Encounter
2. Revelation
3. Opportunity
4. Transformation