

Strange Experiences Skit #3

The Damascus Road

Kevin Lee

Performers 2

Saul of Tarshish/Narrator

Malachi (An upstanding and devout member of the Sanhedrin)

(Saul is walking, Malachi walks up to him)

Malachi "Saul, my friend.....where have you been?....I haven't seen you for weeks....The brethren at Damascus said you never arrived....and we've heard all-sorts of rumours...."

Saul "The rumours were probably partly true.."

Malachi "Tell me all about it!"

Saul "We were travelling on the Damascus Road....just in casual conversation as usual....when a light shone down from Heaven....So bright....even brighter than the Sun....I fell from my horse....The others all ran and hid....we were terrified.....None of us had ever seen anything like it....Then, a Voice spoke out from the Light...."

Malachi "An Angel's voice?"

Saul "No, a Man's voice....He said "Saul, Saul....why do you persecute me?....I thought it was the Lord....So I asked 'Who are you Lord?...And He replied..'I am Jesus, whom you're persecuting...."

Malachi (Shaking his head) "Not you too?...Of all people!"

Saul "It was Jesus,...He..."

Malachi "You hit your head on a rock"

Saul "No, the fall never harmed me"

Malachi "You fell off your horse....Then a dead Man spoke to you...look at it Man?...The only thing that happened in between was when you hit the ground."

Saul "I know I heard the Voice!"

Malachi "So, what did the others think of it?"

Saul “They never heard the Voice, but they did all see the Light.”

Malachi “Can you hear my voice?”

Saul “Yes!”

Malachi “Can anyone else?...” (looking around) “See they can...So, why didn’t anyone else hear this imaginary voice of yours?”

Saul “I don’t know?...Maybe the Voice wasn’t for them...But, they did see the Light.....I was blinded by it for 3 days....And He told me to go to Strait Street and a man named Ananias would Pray and restore my Sight.....which he did.”

Malachi (shaking his head) “I don’t know about this Light...But the imaginary voice of a dead Man....*That* is weird.”

Saul “It was Jesus,...He...”

Malachi (Covering his ears) “Don’t speak that Criminal’s voice to me!”

Saul “I can see the Scriptures now in a way that I’ve never seen them before...”

Malachi “That’s what all the fanatics say.”

Saul “Maybe, it’s true?”

Malachi “It’s a disease....and it’s spreading like one....It infects the rabble who have no knowledge of the Scriptures....Do the rulers of the people believe it?”

Saul “I hope they will.”

Malachi (Covering his ears) “He called us all Hypocrites....He had no respect to God's High Priest!”

Saul “He was our Messiah, and we didn’t recognise Him.”

Malachi “He was *NOT* our Messiah.”

Saul “He was crucified...Then He resurrected from the Tomb!”

Malachi “Saul,...I’ve seen the death of my firstborn....but nothing gives me the sadness that hearing these Blasphemies from your lips does.”

Saul “It’s the Truth!”

Malachi “If it were the Truth,...the High Priest would believe it. I won’t hear anymore of this.”

Saul "But...?"

Malachi "Saul, you know what will happen to you when the others hear of this?"

Saul "Yes, they will stone me."

Malachi "Yes, that's what they do to Blasphemers....But, because you're my very *oldest*, and very *dearest* friend....I'm willing to overlook this indiscretion....And we'll go to the Sanhedrin together, and I'll explain that it was the fall from the horse that affected you....but, you'd better limp or something."

Saul "But, the fall never harmed me."

Malachi "It must have."

Saul "No, our God sent Jesus to me and...."

Malachi (covering his ears) "Saul, if you ever mention Our God in the same sentence that you name that Imposter's Name....I'll stone you myself....Friend or not."

Saul "But, look at the Scriptures?"

Malachi "I've been looking at the Scriptures every day of my life...and I don't find bright Lights and Voices."

Saul "Keep looking."

Malachi "Do you even remember *why* you were arresting this Man's Disciples?"

Saul "Yes."

Malachi "Do you remember the things He did?...He was a Rabble-rouser. He whipped people in the Temple....And threw tables over....He had no respect for Our God."

Saul "Perhaps, we misunderstood Him?"

Malachi "We misunderstood nothing....It was that Joseph of Arimathea...He persuaded you."

Saul "I haven't spoken to Joseph."

Malachi "Saul, I *must* ask you to leave....And if you persist with these Blasphemies....Don't ever come back here.....Or, I'll see that you're stoned myself."

Saul "Goodbye, my friend."

Malachi “You know where the door is.”

Saul “I’ll be praying for you daily.”

Malachi (Covering his ears) “Oh!....Get out!...Out! Out! Out!”

(Saul walks away.)

End

Narrator. “When we read events in the Bible, we accept that the things that were written are all that happened. But, they don’t record the undercurrents as *Best* friends became *Former* friends, or even *Enemies*. The Followers of the Lord Jesus had to put up with Derision, Scorn, and Hatred.

Paul admitted in Second Corinthians 11 that 5 times he was whipped with 39 stripes, 3 times he was beaten with rods. Once he was stoned until they believed he was dead. 3 times he was shipwrecked and spent a day and a night in the sea, besides the years he spent in prison, before finally being beheaded, for being a Christian.

Why was that? All because he was trying to express the Love of God, in sending a Saviour to save Mankind from their sins. Did he fail? No! Mankind failed. Those who did not receive his words lost the opportunity to have their sins forgiven in Jesus Christ and receive Eternal Life.

Second Corinthians 5 v19-20 tells us that “...God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself....and hath committed unto *us* the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ....”

So, the quest still goes on. Paul played his part in his day. Now, the word of Reconciliation has been given to us. So, *we* bear the responsibility to go and tell in our day, just as Paul did in his, no matter what the cost.

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