

## FEAST OF THE CONVERSION OF S. PAUL.

Meditation by Mother Harriet

Let us try to imagine Saul in his fierce intensity, standing to receive the clothes of those who stoned the martyr, Stephen.

Saul who at that moment was, in the view of the Eternal Trinity, a "chosen vessel" to carry the Name of JESUS to the Gentiles, to kings, and to the children of Israel. Saul's calling was a mighty mission of Divine love entrusted by Jesus to His own persecutor.

What patience and compassion in our judgment of others can we learn from Jesus' example?

We can contemplate Saul in his reckless journey through life, stopped in his tracks by the tenderness of the voice of JESUS asking, "Why do you persecute me?" and then we can take note of the child-like spirit of his converted soul asking, "LORD, what will you have me do?"

Trace the path of God's loving care, and see Saul passing through three days in the agony of doubt and fear and blindness, and the mark of his conversion being given to the Ananias when the Lord says to him "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying." And then, speaking to Ananias' doubts about Saul, God says: "I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

The transformed Paul, obedient to the urgings of the Holy Spirit, goes on his wondrous mission in a life of perfect sacrifice. He was inspirational, magnanimous, heroic, yet gentle, loving, fervent, and generous. Every day, he died to himself so that the life of JESUS might be revealed and so that it could shed its sweet fragrance around him with its infinite love and irresistible calling.

Paul's life of active service did not diminish his contemplative inner life. What was the vision of GOD that was given to him when he was caught up into the third heaven as mentioned in the Second Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 12?

What is the vision of GOD given to the soul whose persistent cry in the midst of the fulfilment of the active duties of life is, "Show me your glory?"

And what is the blessed promise of a crown of glory laid up for Paul's soul in the treasure-house of GOD?

(John 15:16) "You have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."