

# Acts 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

## Analysis

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**And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest**—Saul's initial address 'Lord' (Κύριε) could mean 'Sir' or 'Master', but Christ's self-revelation transformed it into full recognition of deity. **I am Jesus** (ἐγώ εἰμι Ἰησοῦς) echoes Yahweh's 'I AM' self-disclosure (Exodus 3:14), claiming divine identity. **Whom thou persecutest** repeats verse 4's accusation, drilling home the reality that opposing Christians means opposing Christ himself. This encounter shattered Saul's theology: the crucified Jesus was indeed Israel's Messiah and God incarnate, not a blasphemer worthy of destruction.

## Historical Context

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Saul believed he served God by persecuting the 'blasphemous' Christian sect. This revelation inverted his entire worldview: he had been fighting God while claiming to defend him. The psychological and theological shock left him blind for three days (v.9), fasting and praying. His subsequent preaching in Damascus (v.20) demonstrated radical conversion.

## Related Passages

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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1. Have you ever opposed God's work while believing you were serving him?
2. How does recognizing Jesus in other believers affect your treatment of fellow Christians?

## Interlinear Text

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εἶπεν, δέ Τίς εἶ Κύριος ὁ δέ Κύριος εἶπεν,  
**he said And Who art thou Lord** <sup>G3588</sup> **And Lord he said**  
G2036 G1161 G5101 G1488 G2962 G1161 G2962 G2036

Ἐγώ εἰμι Ἰησοῦς ὃν σὺ διώκεις· σκληρόν σοι  
**I am Jesus whom thou persecutest it is hard for thee**  
G1473 G1510 G2424 G3739 G4771 G1377 G4642 G4671

πρὸς κέντρα λακτίζειν  
**against the pricks to kick**  
G4314 G2759 G2979

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 9:4** (Parallel theme): He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?

**1 Timothy 1:13** (Parallel theme): Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

**Isaiah 45:9** (Parallel theme): Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherd of the earth. Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands?