

Today's Reading reminds us of the extent of what can happen if we genuinely seek God and to do his will. For most of us any change or development may be a slow and even imperceptible process. For others, like Paul, it may be outstanding. Paul was a devout Jew who studied the old Law as laid down by Moses. He was a Pharisee, probably a member of the Sanhedrin. A man committed to his vocation. A vocation that led him, out of his best intentions, to the persecution, imprisonment and even death of those who followed the 'New Way' as proclaimed by the disciples of Jesus.

But this same Jesus literally stopped him in his tracks, and Paul subsequently became probably the most important 'Apostle,' as he later termed himself, in terms of spreading the word of God throughout the early years of Christianity. Even to the extent of his eventual execution. What was the cause of this transformation? A vision certainly, that harnessed that intense desire in a totally new way. To witness to the risen Lord Jesus. To follow the path of Christ who said in today's Gospel, "Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life." "As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draws life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me."

Paul sets us an example of what it means to follow Jesus. Not only does he show us that there are no barriers to anyone wanting to turn to Jesus. But that we have the added gift, given by Jesus the day before he died, to help us. The opportunity to draw life from his Real Presence in and through his precious Body and Blood in the Eucharist.