

# Ridin' High Cowboy Church

8771 FM 35

Union Valley/Royse City, TX

Pastor: Steve Bishop

*Welcome back, Brother Steve!*

## June 12, 2016 – The Way I See It

Vacation is a great time to understand how people view the same thing differently.

What we do on the ride:

I don't mind riding in silence or listening to cowboy music or cowboy poetry. Daphne likes to listen to classic rock (loudly) and sing every song (loudly) and talk about skating to that song, while scanning Facebook, texting people, and pinteresting – all at the same time.

Caidee likes to lay down, pillow and blanket, stuffed animals, and make cartoon videos on her phone the whole time.

When we reach our destination:

I like to get up early and eat a big breakfast, go fish, or go to the beach, take a nap and go to bed early...my children like to sleep late, skip breakfast and stay up all night!

The more we see the world, the better we see it.

With the recent storms there were some fairly big waves for the Texas coast, not many people were in the water, but we were swimming, because when you have seen waves in Hawaii for several years, these Texas waves are just little.

What if we are holding on to a view that holds us back in life...

Saul, later to be called Paul, viewed Jesus as a threat to God, not the way to God. He thought Jesus had died and now he viewed anyone who followed Jesus as someone who needed to be either killed or arrested.

***Acts 9:1*** ***Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, (Jesus said I am the WAY, the truth and the life) whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.***

A couple of chapters earlier Saul was overseeing the stoning of Stephen.

**3 As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.** (This area was famous for its lightning strikes. It was where Cold and Warm air mixed, creating storms)

**4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”** Acts 26 says, why do you kick against the goads (stick used to direct sheep)  
Goads: the stick always wins,

**5 “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.**

***“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied.***

**6 “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”**

**7 The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.**

Paul’s trip was interrupted, not only his trip but his life’s work was interrupted, his purpose was interrupted, before this everything seemed so clear to Paul.

God wanted to take Saul’s sight and give him a new way to see. If you are somewhere and you can’t see anything, you don’t eat or drink for three days, you have a lot of time to think.

Sometimes, I have to close my eyes to stop and think.

**10 In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called to him in a vision, “Ananias!”**  
***“Yes, Lord,” he answered.***

**11 The Lord told him, “Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight.” 13 “Lord,” Ananias answered, “I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name.”**

**15 But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.”**

***17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength.***

What if we got to a point in our relationship with God, that we not only tolerated interruptions but we invited God to interrupt our life.

We ask God to change the way we SEE the world.

WHY? If we are not challenged, we won’t change.

What view of life are you most afraid of God interrupting?

How to approach interruptions – get up and pray,  
“Lord, I know that I do not control this day – what will happen to my car, who will call me at work, whom I will see at lunch, and a hundred other unexpected details. Would you govern my day so that all its unplanned detours are spiritually valuable? Help me to see divine appointments where the devil may only want me to see interruptions and irritations.”

Prayer: God, I want to see as you see, so I will do as you say...