

## Sometimes you get a tough job.....

What we are focusing on here is the guy Ananias.

1. God speaks to him and he answers v10

### Acts 9:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

Comment [1]:

Good answer! Not a good idea to say not now, or hang on a minute, this is God we are talking about.

After Ananias gives his answer - God continues. There is a bit of a principle here:

When you answer God, He will continue. If we keep rejecting God's ideas or Instructions He won't lead onto the next step. So I suppose it is like " if you here God call answer or He won't tell you what's next"

Cf Samuel and Eli.

2. Anyway- God continues v11-12

### Acts 9:11-12 (ESV)

<sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, he is praying,

<sup>12</sup> and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

3. Ananias asks a question. V13 -14

### Acts 9:13-14 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem.

<sup>14</sup> And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."

Actually he shares a concern with God.

It is ok to question God.

It's not ok to ignore God, or disobey God but God doesn't mind questions.

People question God all through the bible. Quite often though, He doesn't

change His mind and very often you get an answer you may not like so be careful in your questioning.

Notice, the direction God gives is qualified with why! V15-16

#### **Acts 9:15-16 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

<sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

First there is an emphatic - GO. I think that is kind of like God saying "Do as you are told"

But then there is a real gentle explanation. This guy is gonna do great things for God, your job is to set him up to do it.

Sometimes our job is setting up people to do a great job for Jesus. Sometimes the flashy, successful, amazing job is not ours but we have a part in it. We set it up. As we talked over the last weeks, a deacons job is to do their stuff so you can do your ministry. They are biblically designed to set you up to ministry. If we expect them to do it all, they won't be able to focus on helping people do their ministry.

So what does Ananias do.... He goes, he does. But I bet he was scared! V17

#### **Acts 9:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

V17

Look at v 17 again

#### **Acts 9:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Notice he explains what God wants him to do and he does it. He does the job called to. And it is amazing, it is a miracle, it has results.

V18.

**Acts 9:18 (ESV)**

<sup>18</sup> And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized;

The issues God created with Paul are dealt with. Sight restored but notice the miracle of that is straight away followed by what - Baptism. Paul oops he is still Saul here, instantly recognises he needs to be baptised. Now he may have had brief discussions with Ananias about it but he does it.

Remember This Saul who became Paul guy was a religious big wig, he had astronomical knowledge about God, you would think he was already prepared. Yet he realises, he's got to do this. This baptism thing is not a heritage thing, nor a denominational thing, it is recognizing that God wants us to go the next step.

Alongside this sometimes we view things like baptism as a young person or a young Christian thing but in reality it is most often just an obedience thing. I don't believe it is about denominations. Previous Christian rituals, it doesn't demean what has happened in the past, it is a symbol of where we are at with God now. One of the tragedies is that for some of us it happened years ago and we may need another "right of passage" or symbol of connectedness to God. If you feel that talk to me.

You know how some people renew their wedding vows, maybe we need to have a commitment renewal day. It's just a thought.

One thing to notice is Saul or Paul's reaction. V19

**Acts 9:19-20 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> and taking food, he was strengthened.

<sup>20</sup> And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

After he dealt with the God relationship stuff he dealt with himself.

That were we need to be. Deal with the God relationship, then deal with our own issues. Why? Because the God relationship affects how we relate to others and to ourselves.

It is the first point of call