

THE MAN GOD USED TO RESTORE PAUL'S SIGHT

Acts 9:10-19

Introduction: For some reason we tend to think that God only uses great, important people to do mighty things for Him. When in fact, it is usually the unknown, the unmentioned, the unimportant, the "invisible" people who are the ones whom God uses to do mighty things. The name "Paul" is well known by readers of the New Testament but who ever heard of Ananias?

God needed someone who was ready, willing and faithful to do something a bit scary for there was a well known man who was an enemy to the Christian faith whom God had just humbled and that man had become a believer in Jesus but nobody knew about it and therefore for a Christian to approach this man was to certainly have one's life put in danger.

God spoke to this quiet, ordinary Christian man, Ananias, telling him to go to Saul/Paul and touch him and restore the man's sight for God had taken it away.

I. NOTE THIS ORDINARY CHRISTIAN MAN'S READINESS (9:10)

1. God knew all about Ananias although there was nothing outstanding he had done nor was he an outstanding man of his community.
 - Ananias was "just" an ordinary, humble, believer in Jesus Christ.
2. Ananias was a devout man with nothing morally wrong.
 - It wasn't just his outward profession and appearance to others that was sincere, but his heart was as true as his appearance.
 - He was a good example not only in daily living, but in his business life as well.
3. Ananias had a good report from everyone, not just polite compliments, but even those who didn't always agree with him, still respected him.
 - Reputations are not made overnight, so all the people who knew him, thought well of him.

II. NOTE ANANIAS' WILLINGNESS TO DO WHAT GOD ASKED (9:11)

1. What God asked Ananias to do was scary for he had heard about Saul/Paul's reputation and how Saul/Paul had persecuted Christians wherever he could find them.
2. Ananias had many thoughts about what God asked him to do and utmost in his thoughts was probably "this is all useless for this man hates Christians," and similar thoughts as this.
3. Regardless of what Ananias thought, he responded in willing obedience. He obeyed!
 - He was obedient to the time God spoke of.
 - He was willing to go where God told him to go.
 - He was willing to leave the results to God.
4. A note to all of us Christians at this point. We miss a lot of joys and wonderful experiences because we argue with God over some point in what God wants us to do.

III. ANANIAS WAS FAITHFUL TO DO EXACTLY WHAT GOD SAID (9:17)

1. Perhaps with a bit of anxiety, but with an attitude of love for God and those God loves Ananias did exactly what God told him to do.
 - Ananias finds the "enemy" of the Church, of Jesus Christ, the man called "Saul"/Paul and somehow greets him as a "brother."
 - He then places his hands on this once fearful, scary enemy, in obedience to God.
 - He does all this with no trace of resentment.
2. Ananias' loyalty to God is seen in his attitude to God and to this man who had been an enemy to Jesus and all Christians.
 - What Ananias did, and his attitude in doing it brought honor to the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. What Ananias did really did nothing for his own character for out of his humility his act of obedience lifted up Jesus Christ instead of himself.
 - He was content to be but an anonymous messenger.
4. This man, Ananias, was ready, willing, faithful, just an ordinary, humble, obscure average working Christian man did a tremendously great thing for God.

CONCLUSION:

1. None of us should ever complain about our circumstances that might render a full, active Christian life impossible.
2. Every Christian needs to keep his/her eyes and ears open to any and all opportunities that may be around him/her.
3. Christian! Be ready for use by God! To do anything God wants!
4. Stop looking for some elaborate, spectacular form of service.
 - Start seeking a pure heart, full of humility and readiness for any call from the Lord.
5. Learn how to glorify God just where you are!
6. God depends upon each one of His children every day.
7. Take a good look at Ananias! Learn to be like Ananias in readiness, willingness and faithfulness.
8. Remember! God uses the ordinary, normal, regular, average Christian far more than He does the famous, popular, gifted, and "well-dressed" Christian. He uses people like us.