

<u>Acts 9:10</u> And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord.

<u>11</u> And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting *his* hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

<u>16</u> For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

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(1) How God Called Ananias, 9:10

<u>Acts 9:10</u> And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord.

Ananias = "whom Jehovah has graciously given" https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/Lexicon/Lexicon.cfm?strongs=G367&t=KJV

<u>Acts 22:12</u> And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt *there*, After this event, we find no other information about Ananias other than Paul's testimony of this event in Acts 22 and 26.

<u>1 Cor. 12:3</u> Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

<u>1 Cor. 4:1</u> Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

<u>2</u> Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

(2) How God Commissioned Ananias, 9:11-12

(a) Where He Was to Go, 9:11

Acts 9:11 And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for *one* called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth,

Who was Judas of Damascus?

- Whoever Judas was, he was used of God to do a great thing in housing Saul!
- As God was doing a work in Saul's heart, He was also working in Ananias' heart and guiding Ananias to be an asset to His work.
- God made a note of Paul being in prayer and mentioned it to Ananias.

(b) What He Was to Do, 9:12

Acts 9:12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting *his* hand on him, that he might receive his sight.

 God gave Ananias information and illumination of how He was preparing Paul's heart.

(3) How God Convinced Ananias, 9:13-16

(a) How His Objection Was Raised, 9:13-14

i. He Had Heard of Saul's Malignity, 9:13

Acts 9:13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

ii. He Had Heard of Saul's Mission, 9:14

<u>Acts 9:14</u> And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

(b) How His Objection Was Rejected, 9:15-16

> i. Saul Had Been Chosen for Service, 9:15

<u>Acts 9:15</u> But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

ii. Saul Had Been Chosen for Suffering, 9:16

Acts 9:16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

Conclusion

<u>2 Cor. 11:23</u> Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.
<u>24</u> Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one.
<u>25</u> Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

<u>26</u> *In* journeyings often, *In* perils of waters, *In* perils of robbers, *In* perils by *mine own* countrymen, *In* perils by the heathen, *In* perils in the city, *In* perils in the wilderness, *In* perils in the sea, *In* perils among false brethren;
<u>27</u> In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.
<u>28</u> Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

There are three men in our text tonight that were faithful – Ananias, Saul, and Judas.

<u>1 Cor. 4:1</u> Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. <u>2</u> Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.