Ananias Is Sent to Saul

Acts 9:10-19

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God Uses an Ordinary Disciple

Acts 9:10 (NASB)

Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

- Ananias probably had been there for a while
- This introduces a "double vision" which will also happens in Acts 10
- Paul gives more information about Ananias in Acts 22:12, 13.
- Ananias had no special status that would give legitimacy to Saul

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God Uses Means to Touch Saul

Acts 9:11, 12 (NASB)

And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying, 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."

- Saul is humbled and seeking God
- Outside of this incident, Ananias is unknown
- Saul now has had a vision of Christ and one of Ananias

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Ananias Knows Saul's Reputation

Acts 9:13, 14 (NASB)

But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to Your saints at Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name."

- He may have heard this from some who fled persecution
- "calling on the name" means "Christians" just as "saints" does
- This shows the magnitude of the change in Saul

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The Lord Reveals Paul's Role

Acts 9:15, 16 (NASB)

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake."

- Here "chosen vessel" is about ministry
- He is to "carry the name" (the person and work)
- Paul's role to go to Gentiles is first revealed to Ananias
- "Must" is again *dei* = divine necessity

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Ananias Calls Saul "Brother"

Acts 9:17 (NASB)

So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

- Ananias is immediately obedient to Christ
- On the road is *ho hodos* = the way
- Here the laying on of hands is associated with the filling of Holy Spirit (and healing)

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Paul Is Now Part of the Church

Acts 9:18, 19 (NASB)

And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized; and he took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were at Damascus,

- Some think the "scales" alludes to a serpent
- Saul is healed, baptized and part of fellowship
- The Christian church readily receives repentant sinners no matter how bad they had been

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