

A VISION THAT TRANSFORMS ANANIAS

Acts 9:10-19

Purpose: To see a vision of God and become witnesses to His mission.

Introduction:

1. I've known people of seemingly small significance whom God has mightily used.
#Take for example the Sunday School teacher who lead Mordicai Ham to Christ and in turn was influential in Billy Graham's salvation.
 2. The world is full of people whose common openness has founded world wide movements that have changed forever the course of history.
 - a. Ananias' vision of the Lord brought spiritual readiness.
 - b. Christian history was changed forever by his simple act of obedience.
 1. His story reveals the triumph of faith over fear.
 2. He sees what others cannot see and is transformed by this vision.
- I. A compliant faith "Yes, Lord" (10).
 - A. Ananias' vision of the Lord brought spiritual readiness.
 - B. Ananias showed confident trust.
 1. Faith in the Old Testament demands firmness or stability.
 2. Faith in the New Testament means to trust and to experience trustworthiness.
 - II. A chilling fear "I have heard many reports" (13).
 - A. Ananias screened out most of what God said, such as, 'Saul is praying; "I have prepared Saul by introducing you, Ananias"; "My purpose is to restore Saul's sight."'
 - B. His fear robbed him of perspective.
 1. He felt that God needed to have the latest news headlines.
 2. Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. "See, and he has come here with the authority from the chief priest to arrest all who call on your name" (14).
 3. Fear holds on to what Ananias has accepted in spite of changing circumstances (13).
 - III. A compelling fact, "This man was my chosen instrument"(15).
 - A. God seemed to ignore all of Ananias' objections by simply saying, "Go!" (15).
 - B. All spiritual growth is connected to a vision of what Jesus is to us or what Jesus wants to do through us.
 - C. God did not just simply order Ananias, but explained that Saul was His chosen instrument.
 - D. God was painting a picture for Ananias as to why this made sense, the whole world is going to be hearing about the Lord Jesus.
 - E. A fascinating sentence has been thrown into verse 16, "I will show him how much he has suffered."
 1. Why did God add that part about Saul's suffering?
 2. A couple of ideas come to mind:
 - a. God seemed to be saying, "Ananias, don't scold Saul, I'll do that part.
 - b. Perhaps Go was saying tongue in cheek, "Ananias, we know you won't go until you know Saul is going

to suffer for what he did.”

- f. Ananias was compelled by his vision of what God saw.
- g. He knew that the next hour was a much beyond his control as was God’s care seventy years from now.

IV. A capable witness “Then Ananias . . . said” (17).

- A. Ananias said, “Brother Saul”.
 - 1. In other words, you’re in the family.
 - 2. “I offer you a home among God’s people
- B. “You will see again”; he offered hope.
- C. Ananias commanded him, “You’re filled with the Holy Spirit”; he gave him help.

Conclusion:

- 1. We become witnesses when we see God’s vision.
- 2. We, as witnesses, offer God’s grace to people blind to God’s vision.