

- I) V10-19 INTRO: Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias
- II) SAUL: had obtained letters from the high priest, giving him authority to arrest Christians
- III) HE HATED BELIEVERS: Considering them blasphemers in need of punishment
 - a) It had become his holy duty to find them and to bring them to Jerusalem for a trial
 - 1) Ac 22:4-5 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women, as also the high priest bears me witness, and all the council of the elders, from whom I also received letters to the brethren, and went to Damascus to bring in chains even those who were there to Jerusalem to be punished.
 - 2) Ac 26:11 I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, *I persecuted them even to foreign cities.*
- IV) KEY: He had been traveling to Damascus Syria when Jesus appeared to him
 - a) While Saul was on his way to arrest believers, Jesus arrested him
- V) V4 SAUL SAUL: Why are you persecuting Me
- VI) SAUL: Had been denying everything about Jesus, including His resurrection
 - a) Now, the Resurrected One is manifesting Himself to Saul
 - 1) Rev 1:8 I am He who lives, and *was dead*, and behold, *I am alive forevermore*. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.
- VII) THOUGHT: In persecuting My people, you are actually persecuting Me
 - a) It is not them alone that you are rejecting, it is Me
 - 1) Jn 15:18 If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.
- VIII) LATER: Paul would actually use this experience to validate His ministry credentials
 - a) Seeing the risen Christ was one of the requirements of an apostle
 - 1) Ac 1:21-22 Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us beginning from the baptism of John to that day when *He was taken up from us*, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.

2) 1 Co. 9:1 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? *Have I not seen Jesus our Lord?*
3) 1 Co. 15:8 last of all *He appeared to me* also...

IX) JESUS: Had in an unmistakable way hunted Saul and caught him

a) He had revealed Himself to Saul, and Saul was converted to faith in Him

X) V5 AND HE SAID: Who are You, *Lord*? And the Lord said I am Jesus whom you are

a) In this question, he recognizes that he is speaking to One greater than himself

I) JUST THINK: This must have simply overwhelmed him

a) Goads: Sharp sticks on wagons intended to keep the beast from backing up

II) V6 SO: He trembling and astonished said Lord what do You want me to do

III) *FIRST*: He asked *Who are You*

THEN HE ASKED: What do You want me to do

a) His surrender was complete: He submitted to Jesus, as his *Lord*

IV) AND: The Lord said to him Arise and go into the city and you will be told what you must

V) V8 THEN: Saul arose from the ground and when his eyes were opened he saw no one

a) He was stricken with temporary blindness and had to be led into the city

VI) V9 AND: He was three days without sight and neither ate nor drank

VII) KEY: In this time of blindness and fasting, Saul rethought how he felt about Jesus

a) 1 Ti 1:13-15 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners --of whom I am the worst.

VIII) GOD CRUSHED SAUL: And as a result, he arose from the ashes a great man of God

a) TOZER: It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply

IX) V10 NOW: There was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the

a) Ananias was a genuine follower of Jesus *living in Damascus*

1) This is not the same Ananias referred to in Ch 5!

X) ANANIAS: Was a devoted follower of God who had come to faith in Jesus

a) Ac 22:12 A man named Ananias came to see me. He was a devout observer of the law and highly respected by all the Jews living there

XI) INTERESTINGLY: He is spoken of as highly devoted and greatly respected

a) The gospel has its greatest impact when given by those who are living it

1) His spotless life made the gospel believable

XII) NOTICE: His initial response is *familiarity and obedience*

I) KEY: This demonstrates that he was a genuine follower

a) Jn 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me

II) V10 THE LORD: Spoke to him *in a vision*

a) VISION: A waking dream, in which God gives a revelation, insight or direction

1) Gen. 15:1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am your shield, and your exceeding great reward.

2) Num. 12:6 He said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.

3) Ac 2:17

III) TODAY: Any such experience would always be consistent with His word

IV) V11-12 SO: The Lord said to him Arise and go to the street called Straight and inquire at

V) V11 FOR BEHOLD: *He is praying*

a) This gives us insight into what Saul has been doing for the last three days!

VI) KEY: Undoubtedly he was confessing his sins and understanding God's grace

a) This shocking experience was meditated upon and later spoken of

1) 1 Ti 1:13-14 I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in *ignorance* and *unbelief*. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

VII) V12 IN A VISION: He has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on

a) This was an act of tenderness towards Saul: He had been given hope for a healing

1) Ps 118:18-21 The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death. Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD. This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter. I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

VIII) V13-14 THEN: Ananias answered Lord I have heard from many about this man how much

a) Ananias questions the Lord: This could be suicide! The ministry could be stopped!

1) Ac 8:3 Saul made havoc of the church entering every house and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison

IX) V15 BUT: The Lord said to him Go for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name

a) God's call is not up to men, but to God: He chose Saul and did not ask Ananias' input

1) Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle --sent not from men *nor by man*, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

I) V16 FOR: I will show him how many things *he must suffer* for My name's sake

a) Jesus makes it clear, Saul will suffer on His behalf:

1) QUOTE: He would not merely profess repentance, but would manifest the sincerity of it by encountering trials and reproaches for His sake

II) FACT: The NT chronicles so many of his sufferings

a) 2 Co 11:24-27 Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. I have laboured and

toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

b) 2 Ti 3:12 Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

III) V17-19 AND: Ananias went his way and entered the house and laying hands on him he

a) He was not only bringing healing, but also commissioning

1) Ac 22:14-15 He said: `The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard

IV) KEY: To be *commissioned*, he was first *converted*

V) ANANIAS: Brought healing, and the filling of the Spirit to Saul

a) Saul had already been convicted: Jn 16:8

b) He had already been converted (Brother Saul): Jn 3:3-5, 1 Co 12:3

c) He was indwelt: Jn 14:17 But you know him, for he lives with you and will be *in you*.

d) He was in the body: 1 Co 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body

VI) HE NOW: Is infilled by God's Spirit, empowering him for service to the Lord

a) This infilling also provided gifts for spiritual service

VII) NOTICE: Saul was converted, healed, filled with the Spirit, and *then* baptized

a) All of this, with no apostles present! This was totally a God thing

1) Paul was called an apostle, and did not need the others to call him to this office

VIII) V19 AND: When he had received food he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days

a) His one time venom for the believers was converted to love for them

1) 1 Jn 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

2) He spend some days with the disciples, perhaps stretching into some months

I) V20-22 IMMEDIATELY: He preached the Christ *in the synagogues* that He is the Son of

a) This is common for those transformed by the grace of God

- 1) He immediately shared what God had done
 - 2) Ps 119:46 I will speak of your statutes before kings and *will not be put to shame*
- II) **KEY:** This was shocking both to Christians and Jews!
- a) His incredible conversion was completely unbelievable
 - 1) Gal. 1:13 You have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it.
- III) **V22 NOTE:** Paul confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus
- a) He clearly and powerfully showed them that Jesus is the Christ
- IV) **Confound:** To disturb the mind of one, to stir up; to bewilder
Proving: To cause a person to come to the same conclusion or opinion
- a) Ac 19:8 And he went into the synagogue, and spoke boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.
 - b) Ac 28:23 (Paul) expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.
 - c) 2 Co 5:11 Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, *we persuade men*;
- V) **V23 NOW:** After *many days* were past the Jews plotted to kill him
- a) He had worn out the welcome mat! The many days spoken of here are three years
 - 1) Gal 1:17-18 I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus. Then *after three years*, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Peter and stayed with him fifteen days
- VI) **V24-25 BUT:** Their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night
- a) 2 Co 11:32-33 In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.
- VII) **V26-30 AND:** When Saul had come to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples but they
- a) They were not open to him at all, *out of fear*
 - 1) Gal. 1:23 They only heard the report: "The man who formerly persecuted us is now preaching the faith he once tried to destroy."

VIII) V27 BUT BARNABAS: Took him and brought him to the apostles and he declared to them a) Barnabas vouches for Saul, and he is received by the Church

1) We met him in Ac 4:36: his name is translated Son of Encouragement

I) V28-30 SO: He was with them at Jerusalem coming in and going out

a) Hellenists attempt to kill Saul: Persecution for Jesus' sake is already breaking out

II) KEY: He had to be sent away to Caesarea (60 mi. no of Jerusalem)

a) Tarsus was 305 miles north of Caesarea, in Turkey

1) Gal. 1:21 Later I went to Syria and Cilicia.

2) THIS: Covered a few years of his history

III) V31 THEN: The churches throughout all Judea Galilee and Samaria had peace and were

a) Things quieted down in Israel for awhile, with Paul gone!

1) During this time, God continued to move among the people, and many were saved