



Midweek Study

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God's Unexpected Instruments

Acts 9:1-25

I. THE PEOPLE GOD USES

Saul: Acts 9:1 “But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem”

Jesus Initiates...Saul's response

Vs. 4 “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? And he said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

Arrested by Jesus

The very one who had gone to Damascus to arrest those who were following Jesus was arrested by Jesus. Vs. 8-9 “So they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. And for three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.”

“The conversion of Saul of Tarsus, the leading persecutor of the Christians, was perhaps the greatest event in church history after the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost.”

- Warren Weirsbe

Ananias: Acts 9:10 “Now there was a disciple at Damascus name Ananias.” Acts 22:12 “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there,”

Jesus Initiates...Ananias' response

Vs. 10 “The Lord said to him in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’”

II. THE PLAN GOD USES

1. The Lord had complete control of the situation. When God commands, we must remember that **He is work at both ends**, preparing circumstances and people, and that His perfect will is always the best.

- a. Vs. 11-12 “Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for behold, 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.”

“Prayer is the autograph of the Holy Ghost upon the renewed heart.”

- Charles Spurgeon

2. The ordinary events are just as much a part of the God’s plan as are the extraordinary.

- a. Bright lights/loud voice (vs. 3-4) vs. ordinary visit with Ananias (vs. 10)
- b. Strong made Humble (vs. 4, 8) vs. Humble made Strong (vs. 13-14, 17-18)

III. THE PERSEPECTIVE GOD USES

1. Never Underestimate the value of one person brought to Christ. Our task is to lead people to Christ; God’s task is to use them for His glory.

- Peter was reaching multitudes with the gospel in Jerusalem. (Acts 2 &3)
- Philip had witnessed a remarkable movement of God among the Samaritans. (Acts 8)
- Ananias, however, was sent to minister to just one man, Saul of Tarsus, who would become Paul the apostle, a man whose life and ministry have shaped generations and impacted nations. (Acts 9)

2. God sees people for the way they could be.

Vs. 15 “But the Lord said to him, ‘Go for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.’”

3. When God calls, we should begin serving the Lord right where we are.

Vs. 20-21 “And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, ‘He is the Son of God.’ And all who heard him were amazed...”