

"ANANIAS Ministered to Paul"

Acts 9:10-19; 22:10-16

By Dr. Edward Watke Jr.

There was a task to be done. Someone was needed to do it. The Master looked for someone and He found his man-- ready, willing, and faithful. That man was Ananias. He was the right man in the right place, at the right time; and God used him. The outcome was great blessing.

Ananias is a most inspiring pattern of Christian dedication. He lived an ordinary life in the work-a-day world for he was not a prophet or some special person.

The ordinary life is often the most difficult for it has the fewest outward stimulants, and therefore requires a deeper and steadier faith within the heart. It is much easier to live in the limelight, to have many supporters, many who appreciate what is taking place. But to stand alone and minister alone is not an easy thing to do.

An ordinary life can be living in an extra ordinary way, for God's glory. It can be lived as a faithful servant unto whom the Lord will say... *"you were faithful over a few things...! If you feel like you are unappreciated or undervalued or in a "so-called commonplace life,"* just remember the Lord used Ananias, about whom we know very little other than his ministry to Saul, soon to be called Paul.

1. He Had a Readiness to Do God's Will: He is simply called a "**certain disciple**," (Acts 9:10) He was neither an apostle, or leader, or great preacher, nor an official in the church. Though obscure, he was mightily used. He was a humble, willing person, who lived a consecrated life.

- > He was "**a devout man according to the law.**" (Acts 22:12)
- > He was devoted to principle, honesty, trustworthy.
- > Ananias had "**a good report of all the Jews that dwelt there.**" (Acts 22:10-16) This would tell us that he was discreet. He was thoroughly known by those in Damascus.

2. He Had a Willingness to Trust God fully! *"Arise, go into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus."* This was no easy thing to trust Saul of Tarsus. Saul had just come to Damascus on a bloodcurdling excursion of anti-Christian persecution. How could Ananias dare to fling himself into the eager clutches of this infuriated ringleader of the Savior's adversaries? Could it be easy to proclaim Christ to this hot-blooded, hardhearted, killer at heart? Ananias obediently went on his way. Time, place, and results were left to the Lord as he fully trusted and obeyed.

3. He Showed His Faithfulness In Ministry To the Newly Saved! In obedience there shines from his life -- Christian love, loyalty, and humility. His **love** is seen in his attitude towards Saul as he goes to the arch-persecutor with the affectionate greeting, "*brother Saul.*" He puts his hands on Saul -- a very gracious act, for Saul had come to lay his hands of violence on Ananias among others. Ananias manifested brotherly love to Saul.

Then we see his **loyalty** to the Lord, carrying out His bidding. "*The Lord, even Jesus... hath sent me.*" He emphasized the LORDSHIP of Christ, which Saul would earlier have hated to hear. Also we see his **humility** as he does not even mention his name but puts the emphasis upon the Lord, as Lord. He was content to be an anonymous messenger of his Master.

Some Practical Applications:

1. Do we **complain** that our circumstances render a victorious, robust Christian life and witness impossible?
2. Do your **difficulties** and **discouragement** seem like immovable mountains?
3. Do we need to be **under the circumstances of life, determined that we can't help how things are?**
4. Do we need to be in the **limelight** in order to do true service for our heavenly Father?
5. Do we feel our lives are very **ordinary**, humdrum, just a constant routine of the same thing. . . and obscured?
6. Do you see that Christian service is not what you **do** for the Lord, but **what you allow Him to do through you?**
7. Do you see that you are a **transmitter**. . . not a creator?
8. Is your life primarily the action of a **thermometer**, or that of a **thermostat?**
9. What should true discipleship produce in our lives? How about: readiness -- willingness -- faithfulness -- loyalty -- and lowliness!

CONSIDER:

What Do Open Doors Mean To You? "*Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.*" Instead of seeing a difficulty in every opportunity, we should see an opportunity in every difficulty. Instead of seeing thorns with every rose, we should see a rose with every thorn. Ananias had an open door of opportunity to have a glorious part in the ministry of one whom

the Lord would use mightily.

The Propagation of the Gospel Depends Upon the Ananias' of Today! It is only the rank and file of Christian believers who can bridge the widening gulf between the pulpit and the public. *In a factory were posted the large letters: I A D O M.* A visitor could not understand what it stood for, or meant. Then someone said... "It means ***It All Depends On ME !***" How important is the individual to you? So how important are YOU to God's plan and purposes?

Seek After These: • Seek righteousness • Seek purity of heart • Seek surrender • Seek humility of spirit • Seek preparedness • Seek to share the loveliness of Christ to those around you.