

Ordinary People – Extraordinary God
Ananias of Damascus
Acts 9:10-19

¹⁰ Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹ And the Lord said to him, “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, ¹² 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.” ¹³ But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. ¹⁴ And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” 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. ¹⁶ For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷ So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened.

Reflection Questions:

- As you think about your life, when have you said, “Here I am, Lord”? What makes it easier or harder for you to be available to God?
- How do you handle your fear, particularly about things God may ask you to do? In what ways can you bring those to God?
- In what ways might God need to shift your perspective to see the way He sees? How might this change your prayers?
- What small acts of obedience might God be calling you to right now? How does hearing stories of God using ordinary acts of obedience in significant ways encourage you to act in faith?
- When in your life does obedience feel like following an obligation? When is obedience a job? What would need to change for obedience to flow from a relationship (rather than obligation)?

Guided Prayer:

Gracious God, like Ananias before us, we come with hearts available to be used by You. When You call our names in the quiet moments of prayer, help us to respond... Here I am, Lord.

When You place someone on our hearts who needs to hear Your love, even when it feels uncomfortable or scary, help us to say... Here I am, Lord.

When You ask us to step outside our comfort zones to serve our neighbors, our community, and those who are hurting, give us courage to declare... Here I am, Lord.

When fear whispers that we are too ordinary, too small, or too inadequate to make a difference in Your kingdom, remind us that You use available hearts, and help us to trust by saying... Here I am, Lord.

When You call us to be honest about our doubts and fears, knowing that You can handle our questions and concerns, help us to come boldly before Your throne saying... Here I am, Lord.

When the path You ask us to walk seems uncertain, and we cannot see the full picture of how You will use our obedience, give us faith to respond... Here I am, Lord.

Lord Jesus, You used an ordinary disciple named Ananias to change the course of history through one act of faithful obedience. Use us, Your ordinary people, in extraordinary ways.

When You call, may our response always be... Here I am, Lord.

In the name of Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow Him wherever He leads, we pray. Amen.