

Sermon Discussion Questions



LOOKOUT
MOUNTAIN
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

"A WILLING SERVANT AND HIS NEW BROTHER"

Big Idea: God uses seemingly insignificant and "unlikely" disciples to accomplish his great kingdom work.

Discuss

Lord, teach your church the lesson, still in her darkest hour
of weakness and of danger, to trust your hidden pow'r;
your grace by ways mysterious the wrath of man can bind,
and in your boldest foeman your chosen saint can find.

from "We Sing the Glorious Conquest," John Ellerton, 1871

If you haven't already done so recently, take the time to read the account of this same story as it is told in Acts 22:1-21.

- 1) Ananias is not usually the first person mentioned in a list of heroes of the faith. There's a song that encourages us to dare to be a Daniel, but not one that challenges us to emulate Ananias. His act of courage, though, in going to see Saul, the former persecutor of Christians, and greeting him right away as a brother was and is impressive, to say the least. It's also incredibly moving. What must Saul have felt when after three days of fasting and blindness, he sensed someone's touch and heard the word, "Brother."
 - How would you describe the role that Ananias played in Saul's life? What exactly did he do for Saul?
 - What will enable us to see a former enemy as a brother or sister?
 - Was Ananias in some way less than obedient because he expressed a concern when God told him to go to Saul? How does he compare to Jonah, Mary, or Zacharias, all of whom, like Ananias, received direct messages from God? (See Jonah 1:1-3, 3:1-3, 4:1-2; Luke 1, vv. 18, 34, and 38.)
 - If you were explaining to someone of another faith how Christians communicate with God (and how he communicates with us), what would you say? What if you were talking to someone who wanted to know if there are any rules when it came to Christian prayer? Are there other passages in the Bible that you would point to as you had this conversation?
- 2) Ananias had a vision in which the Lord told him exactly what to do.
 - How does God tell us what to do? Or how exactly are we supposed to figure out what we should do in obedience to God?
 - What would you say to someone who said, "Well, if God appeared to me in a vision and told me what to do, I'd do it. But he's never appeared to me."
- 3) What mission was given to Saul right after his conversion? Are all Christians asked to do what he was told to do?

DATE: February 23, 2020

SPEAKER: Brian/Chad

SERIES: Acts

PASSAGE: Acts 9:10-19a

Pray

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul. . . ." Acts 9:17a

Heavenly Father,

We're deeply moved—and convicted—when we read Ananias' first words to Saul, the man whom Ananias *knew* had done so much harm to believers in Jerusalem. The man that Ananias *knew* had come to arrest believers in Damascus. Lord, we have to ask ourselves whether we would have immediately called Saul our brother?

We want to be like Ananias. Help us to be quick to welcome new brothers and sisters in Christ, whether they are people we already like or our former enemies. May we be caring encouragers of those who have just recently come to know Jesus. Use us as your servants to show love to those who already know you, to those who have just met you, and to those who don't yet know you.

We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Mission India

Bible Institute in the Middle East