

Paul and Ananias

Read Acts Chapter 9 v 1-19.

Rather than an Essay – some notes to help you do your own bible study...

1. Most surprising story: on two fronts • There already 12 apostles and 7 helpers – why does god call somebody from outside?
 - And even more - God calls this Saul. God calls *whom*?
 - He is gifted and talented - but also guilty of aiding and abetting Stephen's murder.
 - And now he is dangerous to the church!
 - God intervenes: Saul's arrival in Damascus is very different from what he expected.
 - He goes from the church's greatest threat to greatest asset! Repeated in 22 and 26
2. But what does Jesus say (4 & 5)? in persecuting believers, Saul was persecuting Jesus!
 - Jesus appears: he is the Risen One. Evidence for the resurrection.
3. Ananias: first reluctant, but then immediately calls Saul 'brother'
 - Can you be an Ananias to someone? Welcome, make at ease?
4. See that Saul was so sincere and so wrong. We can be very sincere and very active - without Christ!
 - Review what you are doing and why?
5. Verse 16: speaks of suffering: If we want to be fruitful, we must be willing to suffer.
 - Cf. rest of Acts and Letters and how Paul willingly suffered for Christ.
6. This passage calls us to be radical. But we don't have to wait for similar experience - act now!
 - It tells of a great, original God, who can change lives. Who wants to change lives.
 - Shall we allow him?