

## “HERE I AM, LORD”

Acts 9:10-19a

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### INTRODUCTION

Youth and adults—hear what God has for you today!

The proud persecutor becomes a humble penitent: an event amazing enough to persuade others of the genuineness of Christianity. *Jesus really lives!*

Last week we saw “A Changed Life.” This week we see *A Challenging Service.*”

**A changed life leads to challenging service.**

Here we see two willing servants: Ananias and Saul—Both were necessary to the spread of the gospel.

#### I. ANANIAS

A. His Identity (10)--**Look what God did through a layman!**

B. His Commission (11-12)

1. The place is prepared (11)
2. The man is \_\_\_\_\_ (11)
3. The man is \_\_\_\_\_ (11)
4. The man is prepared (12)

C. His Caution (13-14)

1. Legitimate Concerns

a. What Saul did in Jerusalem (13)

b. What Saul came to do at Damascus (14)

- Note that Jesus is the one speaking to Ananias (v. 17), the same Jesus who spoke with Saul on the road to Damascus!
- Saul had authority from the chief priests in Jerusalem—the same men who had Jesus crucified! Would the Lord Jesus allow this man Saul to escape? Would He heal him? Would He trust him?

2. Lacking Divine Insight

- Ananias was seeing things as they appeared outwardly—he was not seeing \_\_\_\_\_ perspective.
- We tend to see the \_\_\_\_\_—the winds and the waves; God sees the calm after the storm.
- We do this with ourselves, others, our \_\_\_\_\_.

D. God's Comfort (15-16)—*I have something special in store for Saul of Tarsus. Yes, Ananias was one prepared and willing servant; but Saul is the other.*

## II. SAUL

A. His Conversion—evidently he was saved prior to the coming of Ananias.

- “Brother Saul”—the past is forgotten! Do we do the same?
- Saul was praying—communing with the Lord.
- God communes with him—by way of a vision; He sends Ananias to Saul.
- His darkness was dispelled; restored eyesight was the evidence.

B. His Healing (17, 18)

C. His Spirit-filling (17)—the second purpose of the laying on of hands.

D. His Baptism—

- This would show a clean break with Judaism and clear identification with Christianity.
- Saul wanted to identify with other believers in the church.
- So should you—if you have been saved!

E. His Commission (15-16)

1. A Chosen Vessel

- a. To the Gentiles—*this would be the primary focus of Paul's ministry.*
- b. To kings—such as Caesar, Agrippa, Felix, Festus, Sergius Paulus, Gallio.
- c. To the children of Israel.

2. Selected to Suffer (16) See 26:16—Saul was to say what God tells him.  
*God opened Saul's eyes so that he would be able to open their eyes.*

## CONCLUSION

Saul has a changed life; now God can use him.

Saul accepted God's call to service (26:19:“I was not disobedient.”)

How about you? **If you have a changed life, you can hear and answer His call:**

“HERE AM I, LORD, SEND ME.”

- 1) Service according to God's will—*for all of us.*
- 2) Renewal of service—for pastors, deacons, SS and Ch. Church teachers, Kids for Truth workers, nursery workers, visitors, cleaners, choir members, singers, etc.
- 3) **“Full time service”**—for willing adults and young people
- Can you say, “Here am I Lord”?