

Daily Devotional, September 28, 2021 Whose Plan am I following?

“Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized.” Acts 9:17-18

The Bible is filled with stories of ordinary people who bless others through their faithful service to God. Because these special people were willing to say “yes” when God called, lives were changed, and the world was changed for the better.

A favorite example of mine that bears this out, is the faithful story of Ananias. He is a disciple who lived in Damascus, far from all the action that was happening in Jerusalem. One day God called to Ananias and asked him to go to a house in Damascus and pray for a man named Saul of Tarsus.

I have no doubt that Ananias was shocked when God called him into service that day. Not only was he surprised to hear God’s call, but also the call was for him to go and see Saul. Ananias had heard about Saul and how he was persecuting Christians around Jerusalem. Now the persecutor had come to his hometown! Ananias pleaded with God, worried for his own safety. God replied, ““Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. I will show him how much he must suffer for my name.” (Acts 9:15-16)

Ananias quickly, did go out to find Saul. After he found Saul, he prayed for him, placing his hands on Saul. When you think about it, what an amazing act of bravery! This simple act of obedience opened the eyes of Saul, whose name would then be changed by God to Paul. From this point forward, he no longer persecuted the followers of Jesus. Instead, he joined them and helped to spread the message of Christ around the world.

Ananias helped to change Paul’s life that day because he was obedient to God. His faith in God made him available and willing to be used by God. I am sure he never thought he would be called to face the man who had been persecuting the church, but when God called, Ananias answered the call. What is God calling you to do? Who could you be praying for today? What act of service is God equipping you for? How can you bless others’ lives? Like Ananias, God is calling us to make a difference in our world. God is calling us to love our neighbors. Let us make no exceptions!

Prayer: Lord of Heaven and earth, I’m just one person out of billions on earth. Surrounded by powerful forces in government, business, and society, I often feel totally powerless and insignificant. My temptation is to simply fall into a comfortable routine and try my best to be happy. But I know that’s not right. I also know that you are all powerful, much greater than any group or institution in the world. You have given me talents, gifts, and abilities to invest wisely for you. I want to use them to truly make a difference, even if that means one person at a time—nothing grand—just you and me working together to change lives. You said that someone with faith as small as a mustard seed could move mountains. I want to change the world, beginning here, with me right here. Right now. Be with me and guide me now and always, Amen.