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HERE I AM, LORD

LESSON 4 – Ananias

If you were with us for the second lesson featuring "Moses", I think that we came to an amazing conclusion: God was not looking for results/victory ALL AROUND Moses, BUT RATHER victory/results INSIDE Moses.

Acts 9:10-19 - Now in Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias. The Lord called out to him in a vision, "Ananias!" He answered, "Here I am, Lord."

Acts 22:12 - Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who lived there, came to me (Saul), and said, "Brother Saul, receive your sight."

1. What title was given to Ananias? _____
2. Where did Ananias live? _____
3. When God called to Ananias, Ananias replied, "Here I am, Lord." What does this tell you about Ananias? _____
4. Yes No Is it safe to assume that the phrase, "a devout man according to the Law" means that Ananias was a faithful believing Jew?
5. Yes No Can we also assume that "having a good testimony with all the Jews who lived there" might suggest that Ananias had lived there a while and was well established in the Christian community?

You might wonder why Ananias and the other Jews were living in Syria. There were Jews scattered all over the known world due to the persecution by the Roman Empire. There were probably about 10,000 Jews living in Damascus at this time in history.

6. When Ananias answered God's call & said, "Here I am, Lord", did Ananias know what he was getting himself into? Yes No

Acts 9:1-2 - Meanwhile, still spewing death threats against the Lord's disciples, Saul went to the high priest. ² He asked him for letters to take with him^[a] to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any men or women belonging to the Way, he might bring them in chains to Jerusalem.

WHY TALK ABOUT ANANIAS? BECAUSE HE JUST ABOUT READY TO MEET SAUL THE JEW PERSECUTOR.

7. Where was Saul when we catch up with him in the verses above? _____
8. What was the purpose of his trip up there? _____
9. Yes No Does these verses say that Saul hates all Jews?
10. What kind of Jews does Saul hate? _____
11. In his hatred, what things is he doing to these Jews? Refer to the verses above.
 - He was hunting Jews down.
 - He was slaughtering the Jews with guns.
 - He was turning the Roman government against them.
 - He was issuing nation-wide threats against them.
 - He was chaining them up and dragging them off to jail.

Saul's hatred of the believing Jews was incredible. Why would a government official make a 150-mile trip to another country to find Jews, just so he could drag them back to Jerusalem for arrest & trial?

- 12. Yes No Ananias was a Jewish Christian.
- 13. Yes No Ananias had heard the rumors that Saul the Persecutor was coming.
- 14. Yes No Ananias was a well-known believer who definitely had a target on his back.

Acts 9:13-14 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard many people tell how much evil this man has done to your saints in Jerusalem. He is here with authority from the high priests to put in chains all who call on your name."

15. Ananias had already told the Lord, "Here I am, Lord." But he did have two concerns:

- a. _____
- b. _____

Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of mineI have a plan for him."

16. What was God telling Ananias here? _____

Acts 9:17 And Ananias went his way and entered the correct house; laying his hands on Saul he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus has sent me"

17. How do you know that Ananias believed what God said? _____

18. How do you know God gave Ananias courage? _____

19. How do you know Saul was a believer now? _____

I remember a time when my neighbor chewed me out in front of others because my renter made a mess of my property. I was hurt because I did not do it nor was I aware of it. I cleaned up the place. That neighbor avoided me for months and months. I was troubled but I kept my distance. How was I to approach this guy? He was harsh and critical about many things. The Lord asked me if I was willing to take a chance. I actually said, "Here I am, Lord, but I don't want to be." So, I walked over to his driveway and asked him if he would feed my cat while I was away. DON'T LAUGH. I DID. He wanted to; he really wanted to. I don't know what happened that day but we are good, friendly neighbors now.

I am not special, believe me. I said, "Here I am, Lord." God said "go".

Acts 9:22 Saul increased all the more in strength, and amazed the Jews there in Damascus, and proving to all there that this Jesus was their Messiah, the Christ.

- 20. Yes No This is hard to admit. If you were Ananias & you had helped Saul become a Christian, and yet Saul started becoming famous, and you were never heard from again, would you be glad for Saul?

I know the right answer here, but I might be jealous. I'm sorry but that is the honest truth.

21. Would these three prayers be appropriate from you?

- a. Yes No Lord, please remove my jealousy and guide me to being thankful.
- b. Yes No Lord, please continue to make Saul (or whoever) successful in Your plan.
- c. Yes No Lord, help me to say, "Here I am, Lord" the next time.

22. Could you agree with the verse below for your life? Yes No

1 Tim. 1:13-14 In the past I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent^[a] man. But I received mercy because I acted ignorantly in my unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed toward me, ^[b] along with the faith and love that are in the Messiah^[c] Jesus.

23. Could you promise God this? Yes No

1 Peter 3:15 I will always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks for the reason why I have hope within me, and I will do it with tenderness and respect.