

“The Lord said, “Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again.” “But Lord,” exclaimed Ananias, “I’ve heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem! And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest everyone who calls upon your name.” Acts 9:11-14 NLT

lectio // Acts 9:10-19a

Talk about specificity! Ananias is spending some time with God, or not, maybe he’s just taking a nap and in a VISION, God speaks very specifically to him. (meanwhile, back in Damascus, Saul is completely wrecked. He’s blind and confused and asking all the right questions). Specificity is great, but it has nothing to do with sheer obedience. Details do not make fear disappear! Ananias is quick to point out the “known” facts (of course these facts are now old news, because God did something so devastating to Saul that no one knows about), “But Lord,” he says, “I’ve heard,” he says, “talk about terrible things,” he says - about this same guy you want me to lay hands on and PRAY for!? Raise your hand 🙋 if you would have said yes to this? Luke tells us, “But then the Lord said GO.” There is a lot of faith going on here, a lot of trust has gone into this story. What if Ananias had said, “no?” We really can’t play the game of “if” because it’s history now, but do we really understand the magnitude of God asking us to participate with him and exercising faith to be obedient? No, because we don’t have all the details and... we don’t run the world 😊! What does it take for Ananias to go and pray for a religious gang leader? Not faith, obedience! God knows, we don’t. Is obedience harder than faith? Which is MORE pleasing to God, faith or obedience?

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Dad,

No wonder people (me) don’t want more faith in their life, because it really requires OBEDIENCE. And when it comes to these wild, dangerous ideas of yours, it is SO EASY to dismiss it as other things. Like, “is this for real?” or “is this just in my head?” or “I’m sure you’ll get someone else.” We dismiss it because we don’t want to be obedient and can mask it or talk ourselves out of it. Ananias just did what he was told - period.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root