

➤ **A disciple of Jesus implies interactive relationship.**

Acts 9:10

In Damascus there was a disciple named Ananias.

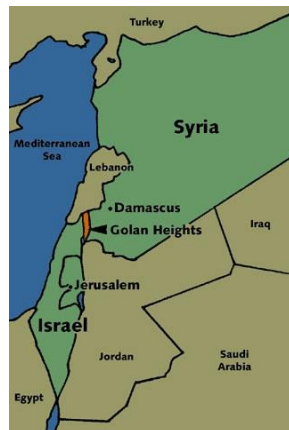
The Lord called to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

"Yes, Lord," he answered.

disciple = learner, student

"If you find yourself in a position where you can honestly say, 'God has never spoken to me,' then you well might ask, 'Why *should* God speak to me? What am I doing in life that would make speaking to me a reasonable thing for him to do?'" –

Dallas Willard



➤ **God's assignments are often clothed with the impossible.**

Acts 9:11-12

11 The Lord told him, "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight."

- Gideon's army being reduced from 32,000 to 300
- Nehemiah told to rebuild the broken walls and burned gates around Jerusalem.
- 80-yr-old Moses + 83-yr-old Aaron leading Israelites to an uncrossable body of water.
- Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego thrown into a fiery furnace.
- Jonah thrown into a stormy sea.
- Daniel thrown into a lion's den.

Why? So, when the *impossible* becomes *possible*, there's really only one explanation.

➤ **God deals with the *impossible* through the *ordinary*.**

Acts 9:13-17

13 "Lord," Ananias answered, "I have heard many reports about this man and all the harm he has done to your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And he has come here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on your name." 15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for my name." 17 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."

- A shepherd boy named David.
- A child-king named Josiah.
- A fisherman named Peter.
- A teenage girl named Mary.
- A tax collector named Matthew.

- A disciple from Damascus named Ananias.
 - **The story of the world has always been and will forever be, the story of God**➔

Acts 9:18-20

18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.

Sometimes Jesus has to stand in your way to show you the way.

The small, brief, story of ME finds its ultimate purpose when it's linked up with the grand, epic, eternal story of GOD.

- ☐ Is there anyone in your life that you've written off, concluded "There's just no way"?
- ☐ Do you find yourself living in the zip code of the *impossible*? You know God has called you to _____ but you can't see how that's actually going to happen.
- ☐ What could God do with a room full of "Ananias's"?
Men and women, young and old...quietly, faithfully, diligently listening to God and obeying whatever it is that He asks us to do.

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