Dare To Be Like Ananias

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday June 23rd, 2019

Text: Acts 9:10-22

### Intro

1. Courage has always been an essential characteristic of God’s people
   1. Courage: “Mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear or difficulty” (Webster).
2. Deut. 31:6:
   1. Before his death, Moses challenged the Israelites to have courage.
3. Joshua 1:6-7:
   1. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous in leading the people and taking the land.
4. Acts 9:10-22:
   1. In the conversion account of Saul of Tarsus (Paul) we often focus on Saul, but let’s examine the courage of Ananias, who obediently went to him as directed by God!
5. Ananias displayed the type of courage needed to serve God – ***Dare to be like Ananias!***

#### Courage Caused Him to be Ready

* 1. Acts 9:10
     1. When God called Ananias, he answered: “Here I am, Lord.”
  2. This answer sounds like others who have answered the call to serve:
     1. Abraham – *Heb. 11:8:* “When he was called, obeyed by going out to a place… not knowing where he was going.” *(Gen. 12:1-5)*
     2. Samuel – *I Sam. 3:10:* “Speak, for Your servant is listening.”
     3. Isaiah – *Is. 6:8:* “Here am I. Send me!”
  3. As servants (children of God) of God, our courage must cause us to be ready to serve God at all times – Be Ready!
     1. Be ready to give an answer of the hope within us – I Pet. 3:15
     2. Be ready to preach the gospel as Paul was – Rom. 1:15; I Thess. 2:4
     3. Be ready to do good to all men – Gal. 6:10
     4. Be ready to pray for all saints – Eph. 6:18; Col. 4:2
     5. Be ready to avoid temptation – I Pet. 5:8-9
     6. Be ready to stand firm in the faith – I Cor. 16:13
     7. Be ready for the coming day of the Lord – Mt. 24:42; 25:13
  4. Dare to be like Ananias in being ready to serve God, whatever the call may be!

#### Courage Caused Him to Go Where He Wouldn’t Normally Go

* 1. Acts 9:11-12
     1. God told Ananias to, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul.”
  2. Knowing where Saul of Tarsus was would usually be the place one wouldn’t want to go!
     1. Have you ever thought about talking to someone (loved one, coworker, neighbor, friend), but you were afraid of what they would think, or get upset?
     2. Ananias was more concerned not what he might think, but what he might do!
  3. *II Tim. 1:7*
     1. “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”
  4. Dare to be like Ananias in courage to go where you wouldn’t normally go!

#### Courage Caused Him to be Realistic

* 1. Acts 9:13-14
     1. Ananias reasoned with God and reminded Him of who Saul was, “Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.”
  2. *Mt. 10:16:* “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be shrewd as serpents and innocent as doves.”
     1. Saints need to be aware of the dangers in the world.
     2. We need to know who is destroying the cause of Christ (from the faith or not).
  3. Ananias wasn’t trying to forsake his work (or calling), he was just clarifying the right course of action.
     1. Saul was the man known for persecuting and allowing saints to be killed.
     2. Naturally, Ananias feared for his life.
  4. There were times men of God fled/walked away from danger
     1. *I Kings 19:* Elijah fled for his life after killing the false prophets of Baal.
     2. *Jn. 8:59:* Jesus walked away from threat! *(Not His hour yet and not by stones)*
  5. Saints need to be realistic with our courage – study situation and make righteous judgments concerning the right course of action.
  6. Dare to be like Ananias in doing whatever is needed, following the right course!

#### Courage Caused Him to Receive God’s Word

* 1. Acts 9:15-17
     1. “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine.”
  2. Ananias was ready to go and do what God said – didn’t run opposite direction like Jonah!
     1. He was realistic about the situation but when God said “Go,” he went!
     2. God often has a higher purpose than we realize – Is. 55:8-11
     3. We must be ready so that when opportunities arise, we can make righteous judgments and be ready to do what God has said!
  3. Think of the courage it took to go to the house he knew Saul of Tarsus was in!
     1. Acts 9:17: “Jesus… has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” (I Thess. 2:4: Into our hands the gospel is given…)

#### Dare to be like Ananias in being ready to obey the word of God!

#### Courage Helped Cause Great Results

* 1. Acts 9:18-22; 22:12-16
     1. Ananias went and preached to the persecutor of the church (Acts 22:4)!
     2. That took courage! But from that courage, more souls were saved!
  2. What if Ananias had been afraid to say what Saul needed to hear?
     1. What if he had only spoken of the existence of God (or a God)?
     2. What if had preached on “unity through diversity”?
     3. What if he had told Saul he had the right to disagree?
     4. What if he told Saul that if he loved Christ, all he had to do was invite Him in as his personal Savior and say a prayer? *(Acts 22:16: He said what Peter said!)*
  3. We never know who the person we convert will convert!
     1. Ananias had no idea that Saul would become Paul the apostle, who would go on 3 missionary journeys and convert hundreds of souls!
     2. He had no idea that when he went to Saul, that man later as Paul would be guided by the Holy Spirit in writing 13 books of the N.T. (14 if he wrote Hebrews), and that his words would be read and studied for thousands of years!
     3. He had no idea that when God said He would send Saul to “kings” that he would stand before Caesar and convert some of his household! (Phil. 4:22)
  4. Dare to be like Ananias and sow the seed of the Kingdom! *(Mark 4:1-20)*

## Conclusion

1. We need to have courage to preach the gospel: we never know what that convert will accomplish! *(Think of all those who heard the gospel through Paul’s preaching & suffering)*
2. ***Dare to have the courage of Ananias!***
3. If not a Christian, you can be if you repent and be baptized! (Acts 2:38)
4. If you are a child of God with sin in your life, you can be forgiven if you repent! (I Jn. 1:9)
5. Whatever your request, let it be known ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!