
Ordinary People ... Extraordinary God

"Looking Beyond Reality"

Acts 9

02-16-25

Introduction: In our present study, we are focused on God's ability to take ordinary people and use them to do extraordinary things.

- How the 12 apostles changed the world.
 - How Aquila and Priscilla modeled discipleship.
1. Today, how Ananias and Barnabas looked beyond who Paul was to who Paul could be in Christ.
 2. Their courage is an important component in Paul's spiritual journey.
 3. Their example is a powerful lesson for our present-day relationships.
 4. It is easy to judge people in their worse moments.
 5. It is easy to hold a grudge.
 6. It is easy to seek revenge.
 7. It can be hard to forgive and reconcile.
- I. Paul: The Reality
- A. A Strange Shift
 - Gamaliel
 - Stephen
 - B. Lead Persecutor
 - C. A Spectacular Conversion

II. Anania & Barnabas: Looking Beyond Reality

- A. Overcoming Fear
- B. Overcoming Doubt
- C. Accepting A New Reality

Conclusion: There is no doubt Paul played a significant role in the 1st Century when the church was being established.

1. There were many steps in Paul's journey.
2. The contribution of Ananias and Barnabas may seem small. In some ways, that's the point.
3. Ananias and Barnabas are somewhat ordinary.
4. But God had a role for both of them in His plan to raise up Paul.
5. Paul did extraordinary things, but he did not do them alone.
6. He needed ordinary people willing to be used by our extraordinary God, to become the Paul we see in scripture.
7. The lesson here is "Look beyond the present moment, to what can be if we gave God the chance to work!"