

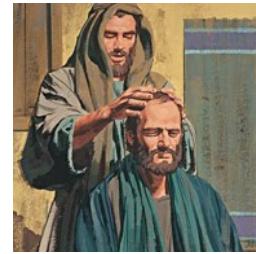


Sharing
Hope in Christ
In
Neighbour
Everywhere Elim City Church
Small Groups

Sermon Discussion Questions

"I've Gotten Used to IT"

Sunday March 1, 2020



It is easy for your Christian life to slip into a comfortable routine. Any service to the Lord is by relationship and that can become familiar, and thereby be limited to what we have already experienced. Notice the two “but”s in the following passage.

Acts 9:13

But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard many people tell about this man, especially how much evil and what great suffering he has brought on Your saints at Jerusalem;

Acts 9:15

But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen instrument of Mine to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the descendants of Israel,

1. Ananias was familiar with Saul, and that made Ananias wary.
 - a. What do you think motivated him to take the risk and go to minister to Saul?
 - b. Ananias was used to listening to God. Why do you think God chose Ananias, a relative unknown disciple?
2. Familiarity can lead to contempt. In fact, studies have shown that the natural process is the more we know someone, the more we come to dislike them because of differences. But we were created for relationship.
 - a. It's good to have familiar friends. Familiarity results in the opposite of relationship. How can you keep relationships fresh?
 - b. How does it help to have boundaries in your relationships?
 - c. We usually believe what others say about us instead of what God says of us. We can get used to their opinions rather than the identity God has given to you. What can you do to not fall into familiarity about yourself?

3. Ananias was ready to let obedience to God overrule the common presumptions of Saul. Obedience is risky. It is easier just to get comfortable with the routine and be reluctant to “break out” and instead are more inclined to “sitting it out.”
 - a. Has there been an occasion when you stepped out in obedience when you in fact felt reluctant? What was the outcome of that experience?
4. God seems to move more powerfully when we act “out of character”. More accurately, when we drop our character and take on His.
 - a. Read Mark 6:3 Most people dislike change. People tend to treat you based on the way you used to be. How does that limit the person’s ability to minister to you?
 - b. “Stir up one another to love and good works”? How can you practice encouraging, “adding luster”, expose the extraordinary in others?
 - c. Can you choose to see the image of Christ in a person?
5. I’m expecting more. Our assumptions can limit God. Discuss the implications on our attitudes:
 - a. Look beyond what we used to
 - b. Don’t reject just because it looks different.
 - c. I am who my Father says I am
 - d. More than we now know (1 John 3:2);(1 Corinthians 2:9)