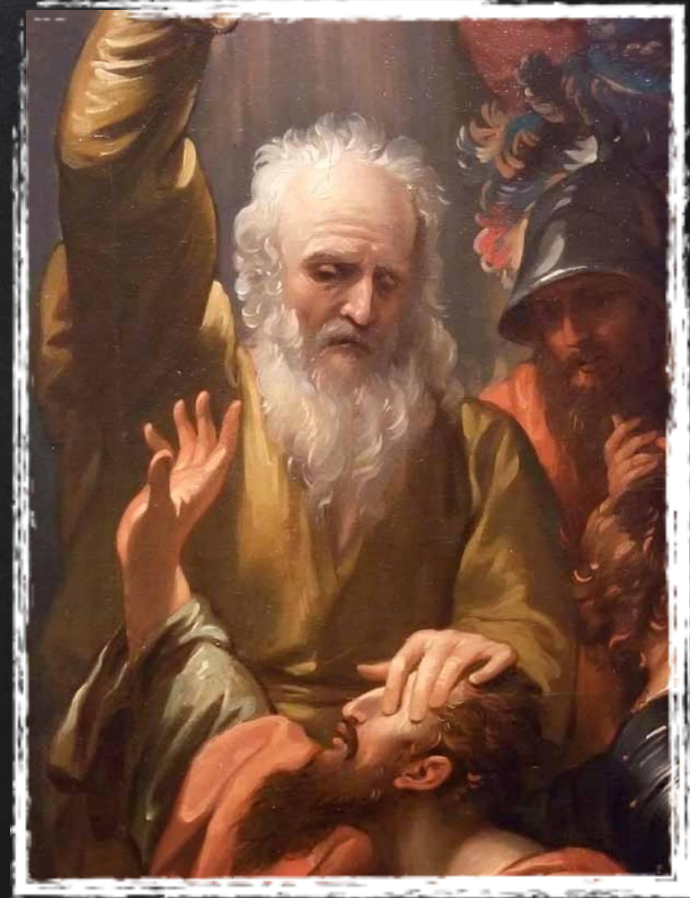


*Ananias's
Gospel
Embodiment*

Acts 9:1-2, 10-22



Who is your favorite onscreen villain?

Hans Gruber



Die Hard (1988)

Hans
Gruber



Die Hard (1988)

A villain haunts our narrative too...

Acts 9:1-2

1 But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.



Saul of Tarsus

- Hellenist Jew from Cilicia
- Radical Pharisee rabbi known for his zealousness
- Approved of Stephen's stoning

Acts 9:10

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord."

Acts 9:11-12

11 And the Lord said to him, "Rise and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul, for look, he is praying, 12 and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."

Acts 9:13-14

13 But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name."

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

- “Your saints” (v. 13)
 - Dedicated and consecrated to the service of God
 - Set apart to partner with Jesus in His work in the world

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

- “Those who belong to the Way” (v. 1)
 - Those treading the path that leads to Life (Matthew 7:14)
 - The treasured possessions of the one who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)

OUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST

- “Those who call on Jesus’s name” (v. 14)
 - Those who cry out to Jesus for help, forgiveness, and grace in times of need
 - Those who invest their hope in His character, trust in His goodness, and depend on His strength to rescue and change

Acts 9:15-16

15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

Acts 9:17

17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 9:18-20

18 And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; 19 and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. 20 And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Acts 9:21-22

21 And all who heard him were amazed and said, “Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem of those who called upon this name? And has he not come here for this purpose, to bring them bound before the chief priests?” 22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Christ.

Ananias as a Witness

- Spoke Jesus's name
- Confirmed what Jesus was doing in Saul's life
- Embraced a former enemy and called him "brother"
- Inaugurated Saul into his new vocation
- EMBODIED THE GOSPEL

“For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly... God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life... Rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation!” (Rom. 5:6, 8-11)

- Saul of Tarsus to the Christians of Rome