

PAUL AND ANANIAS MEET

By Ted Swartz

Characters: Paul, Ananias

Scripture text: Acts 9:1-19

Props: bandage, waterskin, 4-5 rocks, stool or bench

Setting: Paul is slumped against a wall—disheveled, a bandage across his eyes.

Length: 5 minutes

(PAUL responds to the sound of someone coming. Turns his face in the direction of the sound. ANANIAS opens the door and comes in; just looks at him and drops 4 or 5 rocks on the floor. PAUL is unsure what is happening, flinches as each one drops.)

ANANIAS: I knew Stephen.

PAUL: Who's there? *(Silence.)* What do you want?

ANANIAS: You are Saul. The one who is hunting the followers of the Way?

PAUL: I ... I was ... yes.

ANANIAS: You were there.

PAUL: Yes.

ANANIAS: When they stoned him ... Stephen.

PAUL: He...

ANANIAS: *(Interrupts him.)* Do you remember the sound ... of the stones? When they hit him?

PAUL: *(Pause.)* Yes ... yes, I do.

ANANIAS: And now you hunt others.

PAUL: I did.

ANANIAS: If it were up to me, you would stay here to rot or burn in hell, either one would be fine.

(Pause.)

PAUL: Is it up to you?

ANANIAS: *(Turns away.)* No. Why do hunt us?

PAUL: *(Pause.)* I still don't know who I am talking to.

ANANIAS: My name is Ananias.

PAUL: Ananias.

ANANIAS: The question.

PAUL: I believe ... I believed I knew what the law says.

ANANIAS: You know the law well?

PAUL: Yes.

ANANIAS: You were so sure.

PAUL: Yes ... I was.

ANANIAS: And now?

PAUL: Now I am not so sure.

ANANIAS: *(Grunts a response.)* Uh.

PAUL: And you ... why are you here?

ANANIAS: I don't want to be here.

PAUL: And yet you are.

ANANIAS: He came to me—the Lord...

PAUL: Ah, you, too?

ANANIAS: Yes.

PAUL: Did he blind you as well?

ANANIAS: No.

PAUL: Lucky.

ANANIAS: I suppose ... He said I needed to come here and see you.

PAUL: But you weren't happy.

(Silence.)

PAUL: The voice—why are we sure that's who it was?

ANANIAS: What does your soul tell you?

PAUL: Hmm ... so.

ANANIAS: So, here I am.

PAUL: You didn't bring any water with you, did you?

ANANIAS: *(Gives him water.)* What did you see?

PAUL: Light ... fear ... something ... someone ... bigger...

ANANIAS: ...than you.

PAUL: *(Pause.)* It's been three days.

ANANIAS: Ah.

PAUL: You rushed right over, didn't you?

ANANIAS: He said you will know what it means to suffer.

(Pause.)

PAUL: I believe you.

ANANIAS: He also said you will take his name to kings. *(He drops to kneel beside PAUL, takes PAUL'S head, PAUL doesn't know what he will do.)* Hold. *(He pulls the bandage off. PAUL winces as the light hurts; his eyes are still closed. ANANIAS hesitates, then cups his head, his thumbs over Paul's eyes—leans slightly and breathes on him—PAUL twitches and then slowly opens his eyes to focus on ANANIAS. When it's clear he can see he is released ... PAUL sees ANANIAS' face, then sees the rock in his hand.)*

ANANIAS: Huh.

PAUL: *(In a whisper.)* Thank you.

(ANANIAS looks at the rock in his hand—hands it to PAUL.)

ANANIAS: Build something

(ANANIAS leaves; PAUL just watches him go.)

THE END

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PREVIEW

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