

PAUL'S FAULTY FRIENDS

Acts 9:10-19

Faulty friends may disappoint us but need not defeat us.

I. ANANIAS - Acts 9:10-19

- Paul's reluctant friend

A. THE ASSIGNMENT (11-12)

1. The Particulars: "Get up and go" (11a)
2. The Person: Saul

B. THE ANSWER (10, 13-14)

1. Initially: "Here I am, Lord" (10)
2. Subsequently: "Yah, but ..." (13-14)

C. THE ADMONITION (15-16)

1. "Go!"
 - Ananias' objections had no impact on God's instructions
2. "He is my instrument"
 - God has a very definite goal for this guy

D. THE ACTION (17-19)

1. Obedience to God (17a)
2. Ministry to Saul (17b-19)

E. THE ACCOUNT - Acts 22:12-13

- Paul's report of Ananias' response
1. He is a man of character: Devout and reputable (12)
 2. He is a man who came (13)

II. EUODIA AND SYNTYCHE - Philippians 4:2-3

- Paul's rowdy friends

A. THE PERSONALITIES (2a)

B. THE PROPOSAL (2b)

- Live in harmony in the Lord
1. There was a need for an attitude adjustment
 2. Paul begged them to be reconciled
 - See Phil. 1:27 and 2:3

Over please >

C. THE PROBLEM

1. A disagreement causing discord
2. A disagreement between two dedicated women

D. THE PLAN (3)

1. Get a mediator involved
2. Have a mission in mind: The rowdy are redeemable!

III. **DEMAS** - Col. 4:14

- Paul's retreating friend

A. HE WAS FAITHFUL - Col. 4:14 and Philemon 24

B. HE FORSOOK PAUL - II Tim. 4:10

1. He left Paul in a lurch
2. He abandoned Paul in the midst of adverse circumstances (cf. 4:16)

C. HE FELL FOR THE WORLD

1. Literally: He has fallen in love with the world
2. He did not forsake for personal safety but due to spiritual apathy.
3. A tremendous disappointment for Paul
 - He left me for that ...!

D. HE FAILED

1. Fleeing to Thessalonica
2. Fleeing to find his fortune (?)

CONCLUSION:

No doubt Paul's faulty friends disappointed him but they did not defeat him

What we don't know for sure is how they turned out:

1. Though Ananias was reluctant at first, I want to believe he became recommitted
2. And even though Euodia and Syntyche were rowdy, I want to believe they were reconciled
3. I'm less confident about Demas and feel he probably retreated and never returned

We really don't know what happened to these friends of Paul's

- And the same may be true with some of our friends ... they disappointed us and then we got disconnected and don't know how they are doing.
- Maybe this is the week we should try to look up some of those friends who failed us and find out how they are doing and encourage them in their walk with God.

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