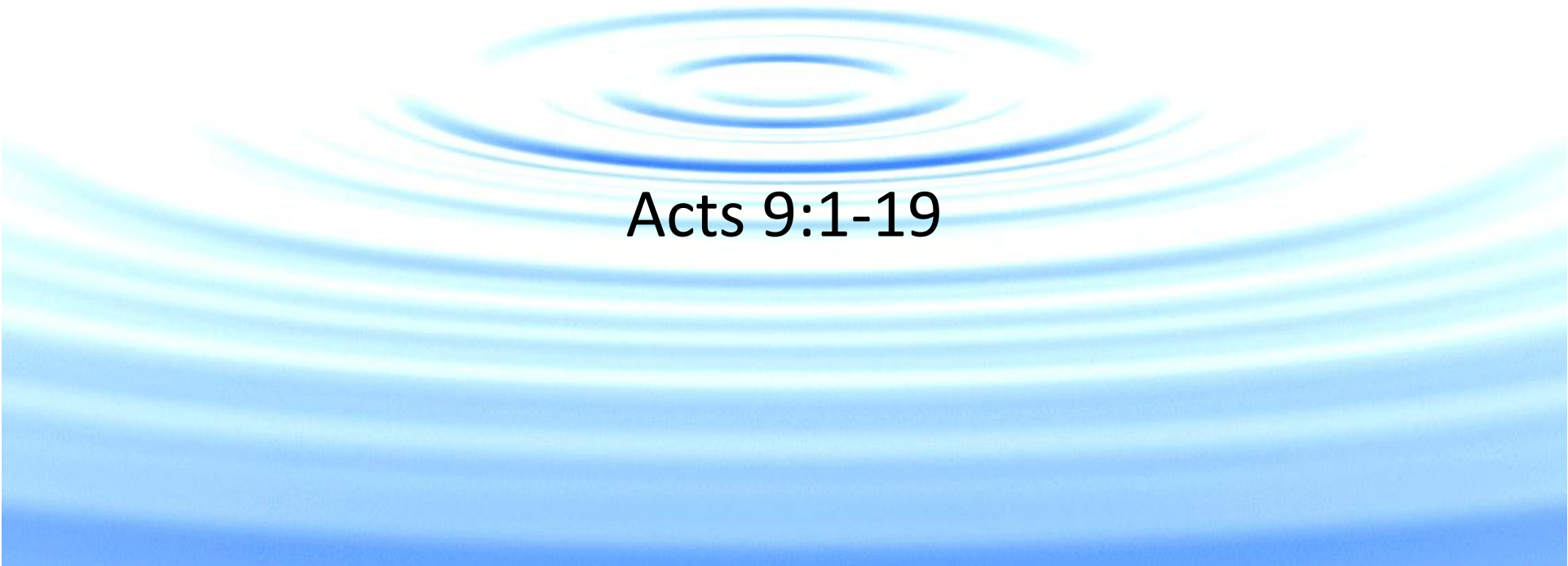


The Preacher Who Baptized Me

Acts 9:1-19

A background graphic featuring concentric blue ripples on a white surface, transitioning into a solid blue gradient at the bottom. The ripples are centered horizontally and vertically, creating a sense of depth and movement.

The Preacher Who Baptized Me

- I feel confident you vividly remember the day you were baptized, as well as the person who immersed you, and the place where it happened.
 - What is the most important thing to remember about that day?
 - It is not the date, the location, nor the man who baptized you.
 - It is the fact that you obeyed the Gospel, were cleansed of your sins, and entered into the family of God.
 - Dates can be forgotten, church buildings can be torn down, and preachers can pass away or fall away.
 - Those things have no bearing on your present relationship with God.

The Preacher Who Baptized Me

- The state of our faith cannot reside in our confidence in the man who baptized us. He is as beset with weakness and temptation as any other man.
 - 1Cor. 9:27 - “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”

The Preacher Who Baptized Me

- Gal. 2:11-13 - “Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; 12 for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. 13 And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.”

The Preacher Who Baptized Me

- His job is to preach the Gospel.
 - 1Cor. 1:12-17 - “Now I say this, that each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas,’ or ‘I am of Christ.’ 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name. 16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.”

The Preacher Who Baptized Me

- Whether he baptizes you or not has nothing to do with whether he has fulfilled his duty.
- Your baptism is about you and your relationship with God; it is not about the preacher and his relationship with God.
- Nor is it about your relationship with the preacher.
- It is not about who baptizes you.

The Struggles Of Ananias The Baptizer

- Saul was wreaking havoc in the church - Acts 8:1-3.
- He was traveling from place to place persecuting Christians, having them arrested and even participating in their executions - Acts 7:58.
- Saul encountered Jesus on one of his persecution trips - Acts 9:1-9.
- The Lord sent Ananias the reluctant preacher to baptize him - Acts 9:10-18.

Ananias, The Separated Servant

- Acts 9:10 - “Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, ‘Ananias.’ And he said, ‘Here I am, Lord.’”
- How he was living: He was a “Disciple” -- a believer and follower of Jesus

Ananias, The Separated Servant

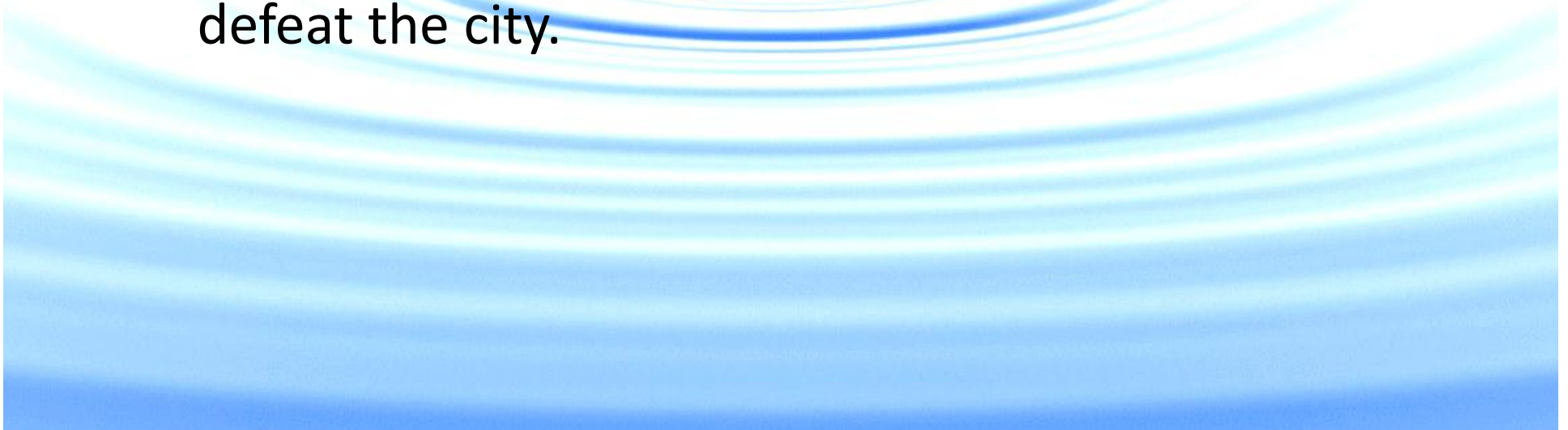
- How he was listening - “Here I am, Lord.”
 - Gen. 22:1, 11 - “Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, ‘Abraham!’ And he said, ‘Here I am.’”
 - 1Sam. 3:10 - “Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ And Samuel answered, ‘Speak, for Your servant hears.’”

Ananias, The Skeptical Servant

- Acts 9:11-12 - “So the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. 12 And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight.’”
- The servant’s command - “Go help Saul!”

Ananias, The Skeptical Servant

- Occasionally, the commands of the Lord do not make sense to men.
 - Noah, build a boat in the middle of dry land.
 - Moses, speak to a rock to get water in the desert.
 - Israel, march around Jericho for seven days to defeat the city.



Ananias, The Skeptical Servant

- 1Sam. 15:22 - “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, And to heed than the fat of rams.”
- Micah 6:8 - “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?”

Ananias, The Skeptical Servant

- Acts 9:13-14 - “Then Ananias answered, ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. 14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.’”

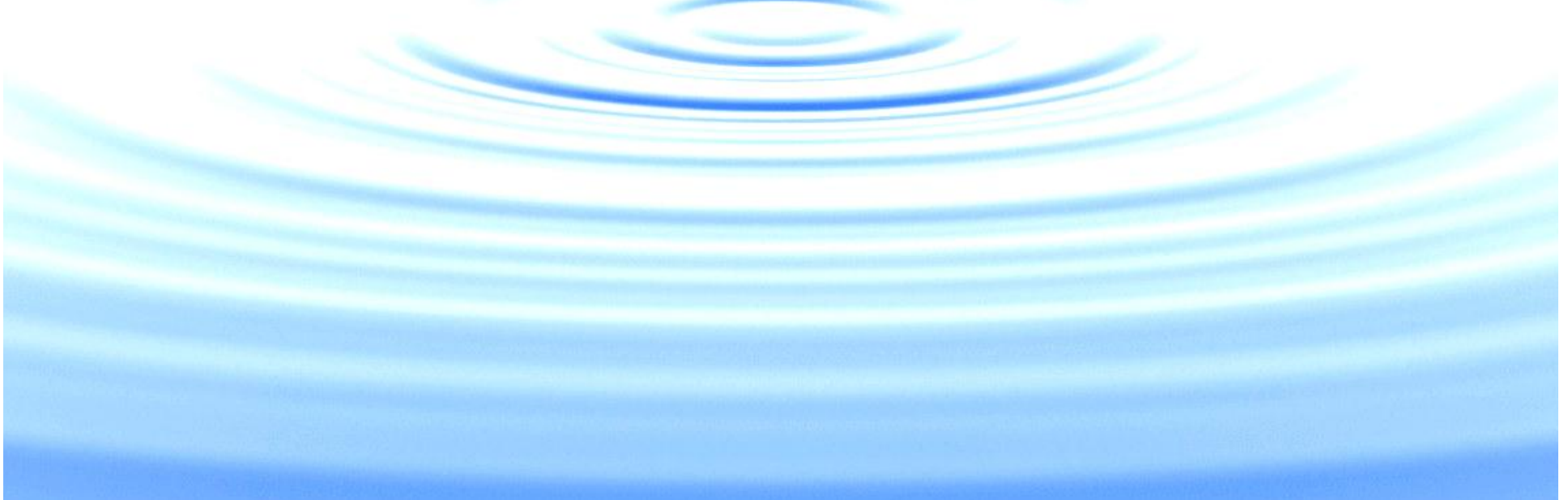


Ananias, The Skeptical Servant

- The servant's concern
 - When Ananias hears the command from the Lord, he reminds the Lord of all the evil things he has heard about Saul, trying to reason his way out of the Divine command.
 - Luke 14:18 - “But they all with one accord began to make excuses.”
 - Exodus 2-3 - Moses reasoning with God in an attempt to be excused

Ananias, The Skeptical Servant

- Acts 9:15-16 - “But the Lord said to him, ‘Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.’”



Ananias, The Skeptical Servant

- The servant's consolation
 - God tells Ananias that Saul is going to fulfill a very special place in the kingdom.
 - 1Sam. 16:7 - "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'"
- God doesn't want our caution, comfort, or personal security. He wants our obedience.

Ananias, The Submissive Servant

- Acts 9:17 - “And Ananias went his way and entered the house...”
- His response: He got busy doing the Lord’s will.
- Obedience is the response of faith.
 - Heb. 11:8 - “By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going.”
- Obedience is the response of love.
 - John 14:15 - “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

Ananias, The Submissive Servant

- Acts 9:17 - “...And laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’”
- His reaction: Ananias touched him and called him “brother.”

Ananias, The Submissive Servant

- Acts 9:18 - “Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.”
- His reward: Because Ananias obeyed the Lord, he got to witness Saul become a crucial servant of the Lord.
 - If Ananias had held onto his reluctance, God would have found someone to baptize Saul.
 - Ananias was a means, but he was not the only means
 - But had Ananias refused, he would have come under judgment for his own weakness

The Preacher Who Baptized Me

- It is not about who baptizes you; it is about who saves you.
 - Rom. 6:4-6 - “Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.”

The Preacher Who Baptized Me

- It is not about who baptizes you; it is about who saves you
 - 1Cor. 1:13 - "... Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"
 - Acts 22:16 - "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

