

Ananias (Acts 9:1-20)

When I was younger and I wanted something I would nag my mother. I would say her name repeatedly to get her attention: "Mom, mom, I need this."

We hear this today with Saul's conversion. Jesus says his name twice to get his attention, "Saul, Saul." We heard that Saul was breathing murderous threats against Christians.

Jesus needed to get his attention. Jesus then says something that is very interesting. He doesn't say, "Why are you persecuting *my disciples*," but rather why are you persecuting *me*. Jesus identifies Himself with those who believe in Him. In other words, Jesus lives in those who believe and love Him.

This is something we can easily forget. When you pick on someone or make fun of them (e.g., bullying), remember that in some sense you are picking on Jesus.

When I was in the 5th grade, one of my classmates began picking on me and turned the whole class against me. I felt so alone. And then one day during recess, a classmate came up to me and said, "Do you want to play catch?" I was so surprised. I said, "Sure." We became good friends.

In some sense, he was like an Ananias for me. The Lord told Ananias to help Paul who had been blinded by the light. We don't know anything about Ananias before this, and we don't hear anything about him afterward. He was just an ordinary man who let the Lord use him.

In this light, ask yourself, "Who has been an Ananias for me? Or how have I been an Ananias for someone else?" Remember, when someone is in need, you are bringing Christ to them. And just as the good Lord rewarded Ananias, so He will reward you too!

If there were no Ananias, there may have never been a Saint Paul! Behind every great man like St. Paul, there is usually an Ananias. Ask the Lord how He is calling you to be an Ananias for someone today.

~St. Thérèse, pray for us!