**Acts 9:9-22**

I. The story of Ananias

A. Notice Ananias is simply called a “disciple.” He has no special title; he’s just a normal follower of Jesus like you and me.

B. He receives this seemingly dangerous and crazy mission from God

C. It is both possible and important for more Christians to become Ananias-like in the way of Christ. There is a vital connection between our ministry faithfulness and our ministry fruitfulness.

II. The Holy Spirit’s role in the fulfilment of God’s mission

A. He delights in using God’s people to achieve God’s purpose in the world

B. He enables us to act and speak to others in ways that represent the reality of God’s kingdom come and coming.

C. Missional faithfulness occurs when:

1. The Holy Spirit enables us to:

a. hear God’s voice

b. receive ministry assignments

c. speak and act into lives of hurting people on God’s behalf

2. So that:

a. people experience the reality of the risen Christ

b. new disciples are made

c. the church is built up

d. we achieve God’s purposes in the world

(in this relativistic culture where your truth is your truth and my truth is my truth, it’s important that people actually experience something different in us, a power and reality that is unique)

D. But this can be scary

1. God didn’t ask for Ananias’ permission

2. Ananias’ had his own plans for that day/week that had to be completely scrapped for God’s plans

3. We crave certainty and control so surrendering to God’s mission is scary for us

4. But if the Christian life is boring, we’re not doing it right.

III. Stories of missional faithfulness

A. Reaching to street kids in the park

B. Reaching out to hurting believer in a worship service

IV. Conclusion

Church is not just about getting our needs met. Church is about us becoming the kind of people the Holy Spirit can use to achieve his purposes in the world.

**Discussion Questions**

1. Consider the story of Ananias and Paul in Acts 9. What struck you most about that story and the comments made about that story on Sunday?

2. At the heart of Dr. Tyra’s message and book is this central claim: The Holy Spirit is a missionary Spirit who enables us (God’s people) to hear God’s voice, receive “ministry assignments,” and speak and act into the lives of hurting people on God’s behalf so that people experience the reality of the risen Christ and new disciples are made. How does that claim sit with you and the reality of your own life?

3. On Sunday, Dr. Tyra shared several personal stories connected with his theme. If you can, share a story from your own life where you felt prompted by the Spirit to say or do something for someone, and you were faithful to that prompting, and you saw fruit come from that. Or share a story when someone else was faithful to that prompting who ended up ministering to you.

4. Discuss your reactions to the following statement that was made several times during Sunday’s message: “If the Christian life is boring, we’re not doing it right.”

5. What are the main obstacles keeping you from stepping into the daily “ministry assignments” God has planned for you (busyness, fear, disbelief in the Spirit’s prompting, etc.)?