

Title: A Heart for Missions: Here I Am, Lord

Theme: Missions Sunday

Scripture: Acts 9:1-18

Location: Solomon's Porch

Date: April 19th, 2026

MISSIONS SUNDAY

INTRODUCTION

- Two things I want to accomplish
 - First, I want to share a brief overview of our church's vision when it comes to Missions, and what missions looks like here at Solomon's Porch
 - Second, I want to share a message that I pray will awaken our hearts for missions.
 - We have 7-8 mission trips planned this year
 - Throughout the year, there will be plenty of opportunities to serve and love our city through local missions.
- **Missions Sunday Introduction**
 - Our SP mission statement is to know him, to be like him, and make him known
 - A big part of our Missions department/ministry is how we live out our church mission, and more specifically, to **MAKE HIM KNOWN**. The heart of our mission endeavours is to make him known.
 - **Missions: To Make Him Known**
 - We do that geographically in two different places
 - **Local Missions**
 - To make him known where we live (Hong Kong)
 - Elderly
 - Poverty
 - Domestic Helpers
 - Deaf Community
 - Single Moms
 - Ethnic Minorities
 - Human Rights (Sex Trafficking, Refugees)
 - Faith & Work (Future)
 - **Global Missions**
 - To make him known beyond where we live
 - Our focus has some similarities, but there are some issues that we won't encounter in Hong Kong
 - Unreached People
 - Persecuted Christians
 - Equipping the Church
 - Worker Support
 - Financial Support
 - Types of Trips we do
 - Partnership Trips
 - Vision Trips
 - Service Trips

Transition into Message: Early in the year Tim and I met to pray, one of my spiritual practices is asking God for a word for the year that will lead me in how I pray and attempt to live out my life. One of the words we got was AWAKENING. That God would awaken our hearts for missions, a heart to GO.

A Heart for Missions: Here I Am, Lord

That when God calls, we respond “Here I am, Lord” and obey. Rising and going wherever He sends us.

Scripture Reading:

- Acts 9:1-18

Prayer

Transition:

- The story of Saul and Ananias is one of two lives intersecting for God’s purposes to be fulfilled. What makes this story remarkable is that we see God initiating this moment and working through human agency (space for individuals to act independently and make their own choices).

SCRIPTURE FOCUS

- **Verses 1-9 (Scene 1: The Story of Paul)**
 - Saul is breathing threats and murder
 - Against the disciples of Jesus
 - He was actively and aggressively going after disciples to be imprisoned; he was on a personal mission that he felt was God’s mission.
 - Men or Women
 - On the way, God encounters him.
 - A light from heaven shone on him
 - He falls to the ground
 - He hears a voice
 - In this moment, he is confronted by Jesus
 - Why are you persecuting me? I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.
 - Is Jesus’ response something or nothing?
 - I believe it is something, and it speaks about the unity of Jesus and his people
 - Jesus identifies with the persecution of his people.
 - What happens next?
 - Jesus gives Paul instructions on what to do next
 - Bystanders
 - Those around Saul heard a sound but saw no one
 - Saul could not see anything after this encounter and so they had to lead him by the hand to **Damascus**

- For three days, he was without sight and did not eat or drink
 - **Verses 10-16 (Scene 2: The Story of Ananias)**
 - Meanwhile, there is a **disciple** named Ananias who is in Damascus
 - He has his own encounter with God
 - Through a vision, the Lord called his name, “Ananias.”
 - He responds with **“Here I am, Lord!”**
 - He receives instruction
 - Rise & Go
 - Location & Person
 - Street called Straight, Look for Saul
 - Who is in prayer so that he can place his hands on him and regain his sight.
 - Ananias Struggles... **“BUT...”**
 - The reputation of Saul worried him
 - The evil Saul had done
 - He has the authority to bind-he was nervous, he knew Saul had the authority to imprison him
 - **“But...”** The Lord said,
 - God reaffirms Ananias to “GO” and “REVEALS” His plan for Saul's life that is for His kingdom and His name
- **Verses 17-18 (Scene 3: The Intersection of Lives)**
 - Ananias Obeys
 - He goes and finds Saul,
 - He departed and entered the house where Saul was
 - Places his hands on him for him to regain his sight and to be filled with the Holy Spirit
 - Paul regains his sight
 - He rose and got baptized

Transition:

ESSENTIALS

1. The Call
 2. The Response
 3. The Process
 4. The Obedience
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1. The Call

- a. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel...” is a command for every follower of Jesus. Mark 16:15

- b. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:10
- c. He has called you.

2. The Response

- a. Biblical Figures Who Said "Here I Am"
 - i. **Abraham:** Responded with *hineni* when God tested him (Genesis 22:1) and when an angel called to him (Genesis 22:11).
 - ii. **Jacob:** Used the phrase when God appeared to him in a dream (Genesis 31:11) and later when God called him to move to Egypt (Genesis 46:2).
 - iii. **Moses:** Responded with "Here I am" from the burning bush, starting the Exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt (Exodus 3:4).
 - iv. **Samuel:** Responded to God's voice, though he initially thought it was Eli (1 Samuel 3:4-8).
 - v. **Isaiah:** Responded with the famous, "Here am I. Send me!" when God asked who would go for Him (Isaiah 6:8).
 - vi. **Ananias:** Responded to a vision from God in the New Testament to meet Paul (Acts 9:10). **The only figure in the new testament to use the phrase**
- b. Here I am"—often expressed in Hebrew as **Hineni** (הנני)—is a phrase used throughout Scripture to signify readiness, availability, and submission to God's call. It has to do with the posture of one's heart.
- c. Ananias is not simply replying here I am. His response carries a deeper meaning, it reveals his hearts posture. His availability, his readiness to obey.

3. The Process

- a. The process of our obedience is sometimes filled with questions, fears, doubts.
 - i. It leaves us at an intersection of obedience or disobedience
 - ii. That we would wrestle through our doubts if they arise and arrive to a place of obedience even when we may not understand fully, but trust in God

4. The Obedience

- a. The life changing moments that bring transformation into our lives and the lives of others happen only through obedience.
- b. Ananias didn't choose Saul, Paul was perhaps one of those we would see out of the reach of God.

Conclusion:

- I believe God is calling our church to obey, to rise & go. But I believe many of us are stuck at the heart. Our posture has not been "here I am, Lord". Ask the Holy Spirit, that he would help you understand the boldness that the gospel life calls for. The heart transformation that we need is not achieved by our own doing but by the grace of God.

Ministry Time:

- Ask God, how do you want me to respond to today's message?

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you

The Lord turn his face towards you and give you peace,

Shalom, from this day forward

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

Amen
