**Sermon Notes – Sunday 28th April**

**‘Listening to God’**

There are three accounts of St Paul’s conversion. In Acts 9:1-19 we have Luke’s record of the events, corroborated by Saul/Paul’s own testimony before the Jerusalem crowd (Acts 22) and before King Agrippa (Acts 26).

The accounts are largely identical with a few minor additions in Paul’s testimony.

* What do we know about this young man (Acts 7:58), his background, upbringing, and attitude towards all who belonged to ‘the Way’?

Acts 8:3 indicates Saul’s obsession which continued into Acts 9:1, ‘breathing out murderous threats’.

* Why do you think Saul was so driven to ‘destroy the church’?
* Does zealously and sincerely believing in something make it true?
* The dramatic divine intervention that so completely changed Saul’s life was probably necessary for the kind of work God had planned for him. What does this event teach us about the sovereignty of God?
* How did God speak to Ananias? How do you think Ananias felt about this ‘sense’ of God speaking to him, given Saul’s reputation?
* Is it significant that we know very little about Ananias except that he was a disciple and highly respected by the Jews living in Damascus (Acts 22:12)? Why is that important?
* What might have been going through Ananias’s mind as he set off for Straight Street? What do we learn of Ananias’s faith from this act?
* Does God speak to us today as he spoke to Ananias? Do any in your group have a story to tell of God prompting them in their daily life?
* How can we learn to listen more intently to that still small voice and respond to the prompts of God’s Holy Spirit?
* What steps might you take this week to listen more intently? Why not prepare to come back together as a group next week and share how God has spoken to you through the week.

Pray for one another that we all might be surrendered to follow Jesus , to deny ourselves, to long for more of his presence, to pursue a path of purity and holiness of life and conduct, giving Him permission to interrupt our day with a word, thought, message or instruction.

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