

BOOK OF ACTS // WEEK 31

PAUL'S ARREST AND TESTIMONY

Mike Drummond - 05/05/24

GROWING TOGETHER

Acts 20:7-12 tells us that Paul, knowing he was leaving Ephesus and not going to be returning, stayed up with the church Elders all night speaking with them and saying his good-byes. Before people begin to share, try having everyone write down what they would discuss (papers or phones would work) and then read the talking points aloud. The list doesn't have to be exhaustive. Try keeping the list to the 3-5 most important things they can think of. Don't worry about comparing the topics as this is personal to each person.

If you knew you were leaving the ones you loved and never going to return again, what would you say to them? What would you want them to know?

GROWING WITH GOD

Read [Acts 21](#), [Acts 22:1-16](#), [Romans 14:6](#), & [1 Corinthians 9:20](#) aloud and go over your sermon notes with one another. (Answer all or some of the questions)

Paul, as Pastor Mike said, "wasn't choosing suffering...he was choosing obedience and he was motivated by love." Even though the prophet Agabus had a clear prophetic word about the danger he faced if he chose to go to Jerusalem - and Luke and others also pleaded with him not to go - Paul was "compelled by the Spirit" to go to Jerusalem.

- **What happens when close friends and/or family disagree with a decision you make (after you've prayed and sought God's will), and you go ahead with your decision or plan?**
- **Has that ever happened in your life and what was the outcome?**

When Paul was arrested by the Romans, the Commander had to evacuate Paul to a quieter place to question him as to who he was and what he was doing. Rather than allow the Romans to remove him from the situation, Paul requested to stay and speak to his accusers - Paul made a choice. In his moment of adversity, Paul revealed his heart and demonstrated who Jesus is.

- **How might you have responded in the face of an angry mob?**
- **When you experienced your moment of adversity, how did you respond?**

When Paul was able to address the crowd after being detained, he didn't do it in a manner that matched their anger and hostility towards him. The Holy Spirit gave Paul the necessary demeanor to address them. Acts 21:40 through Acts 22:2 tells us that Paul addressed them as "Brothers and Fathers" and began to share his testimony.

- **If you were in Paul's shoes, how do you think you would have responded once you were given permission to speak?**
- **When faced with the task of having to speak to others, how can you remind yourself to seek the Holy Spirit's guidance before responding?**

If the group doesn't know one another's testimony, ask them to share it, so long as they feel comfortable doing so. Remind the group to allow everyone to share it without interruptions. Before everyone shares, ask them if they would feel comfortable being asked questions about their story once everyone who is willing to share has done so. Let them know they don't have to answer anything they don't feel comfortable with.

GROWING IN OBEDIENCE & SCRIPTURE

Here are insights Pastor Mike gave us to reflect on.

There are three parts when sharing your testimony with someone:

1. This is who I was before I met Jesus. (Acts 22:3-5)
2. This is how I met Jesus. (Acts 22:6-13)
3. This is how Jesus changed my life. (Acts 22:14-16)

Prayer:

1. Pray for Pastor Jason's voice to fully recover and for his health during this time of vocal rest.
2. Pray for the safety and success of those who are sharing the Gospel in challenging or dangerous situations, just like Paul in Acts 21-22.
3. Pray for boldness and wisdom in sharing your own testimony and spreading the message of Jesus in your community.

Trusting God's Calling:

1. Trust in God's calling on your life, just as Paul trusted God's calling to go to Jerusalem despite the warnings and opposition he faced.
2. Reflect on moments in your life where you felt compelled by the Spirit to act, even if it seemed risky or against popular advice. Share these reflections with others to encourage them in their own journeys of faith and obedience.
3. Consider areas in your life where you may be hesitant to follow God's will due to fear or doubt, and ask for the courage to step out in faith, knowing that obedience to God's calling brings true fulfillment and purpose.

Sharing Your Testimony:

1. Practice articulating your testimony in a way that is clear, relatable, and points others to the power of Jesus to change lives.
2. Look for opportunities to share your testimony with others, whether it's in casual conversations, small group settings, or formal presentations. Don't wait for the "perfect" moment—every moment is an opportunity to share the love and truth of Jesus with those around you.

GROWING IN PRAISE AND WORSHIP

This week's song list if you'd like to worship with your group.

- [I Thank God](#)
- [Another One](#)
- [Bless God](#)
- [I've Witnessed It](#)

GROWING WITH CATALYST PEOPLE

Be sure to follow Catalyst Church on all the major social media platforms for the latest information and words of encouragement.



