

My Life in on Display

Acts 22:1-21

vs. 30-36, The crowd is stirred up and seize Paul.

vs. 33, The commander took Paul into custody (saved Paul's life)

- Notice: Agabus' prophesy was generally correct.

Compare and Contrast the prophets of the OT and those in the NT.

- Both could be conditional in nature (if one did x... then y would happen).
- Unlike OT prophets NT prophecy would seem to have authority of general content, but not to be taken as a literal transcript of God's words. It was understood to be weighed and discerned.
- The OT had a much more, "This is what the Lord says" quality, God speaking directly through the prophet.

Mob mentality -> Get rid of Him! (Kill him)!

Question: Are you willing to walk the narrow path of kingdom living into the unknown with what is known? What will this require of you?

vs. 37, Am I allowed to say something to you?

Chapter 22

Romans 9:2-5 that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3 For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the benefit of my brothers and sisters, my own flesh and blood. 4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the temple service, and the promises. 5 The ancestors are theirs, and from them, by physical descent, came the Christ, who is God over all, praised forever. Amen.

He has been accused of abandoning the faith of their forefathers.

Paul takes the time to describe his background, study, and zealotry for God. It is in these very places God revealed to him the truth of Jesus.

vs. 1-5, This is who I was. (Speaking in Aramaic)

vs. 3, I was zealous for God, just as all of you are today.

I had access to the high priest and the whole council (**vs. 5**). I had been given approval through letters to punish those of the Way.

Side Note: Luke highlights Paul's testimony three times in his writing of Acts (9, 22, 26).

Jesus is the fulfillment of the law (Matthew 5:17).
He is central to everything we believe.
Everything we are pours out of the truth of Jesus!

This is the stumbling stone.

1 Corinthians 1:23 but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles.

People throughout history try to avoid and find any explanation they can to dismiss Jesus.
How can Jesus have overcome death?
How can Jesus really care deeply about others, especially me?
How can Jesus genuinely change people?

Every argument against Jesus is trying to capitalize on the doubt that comes from these questions.

Paul -> I am just like you. In fact I am more zealous and deeply Jewish than you can imagine.

Now Jesus has asked me to speak to you who feel exactly the way I once felt!

The deeper issue -> table-fellowship with anyone and everyone purely on the basis of faith in Jesus.

Romans 10:11-13 For the Scripture says, Everyone who believes on him will not be put to shame, 12 since there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, because the same Lord of all richly blesses all who call on him. 13 For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

Paul had placed Jews and Gentiles on equal footing before God.

- Gentiles can be directly approached with God's message of salvation.
- They do not first need to be related to Israel's nation and institutions.

vs. 6-10, This is how I met Jesus.

Paul was confronted with the truth that he had been persecuting the risen and exalted Messiah.

Paul came face to face with the blinding light of Jesus.

Shechinah -> like the face of Moses.

Echoes of Peter's experience in Acts 2. (Fellow Israelites - vs. 38, Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.)

vs. 11-16, This is who I have become by being obedient to Jesus' calling in my life. (Using evidence that would be easier for the audience to accept).

- Ananias -> devout man according to the law, with a good reputation among all the Jews. (He was the mouthpiece of Jesus).
- Brother Saul
- The God of our ancestors
- The Righteous One
- You will be a witness for him to all people

vs. 17-21

I continued to seek the Lord in the temple.

God is the one who has sent me to the Gentiles. Only God through my encounter with Jesus could change the course of my life!

Question: How do you deal with doubt about faith? What are the tangible things that support you in times of weariness?

How does Jesus want to use your background and life story to show others his truth and reality? Is there any type of person in which table fellowship is difficult (exposing our bias).

Reflect on how you are different with Jesus.

Before Jesus

With Jesus

- Spend a good amount of time asking the Holy Spirit to give you insight.
- Spend time in thanksgiving through prayer.