

TEXT: Acts 21-22

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Go to redeemerchurch.com/events to find and register for upcoming events.
 - Parent Commissioning is for covenant members with children and will take place on Sunday, November 19th.
 - Baptism Class will be on Sunday, December 3rd and is for believers who are ready to take the next steps of obedience in baptism.
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Big Idea: The gospel is validated by a transformed life.

Ice Breaker: What are some dumb arguments you've had or heard others have?

Questions

Read Acts 21:17-19

Paul shares the amazing stories of what God has done, how He has worked, and how He delivered him. We shouldn't be people who over-spiritualize everything, but we should be people ready to celebrate anything

- What can you celebrate that God has done in your life over the past week?

Read v27-34

They wanted Paul dead and gone and so they had to lie about him to get the masses to attack him. They had nothing on him, the only thing they could do was lie. We ought to live our lives in such a way that the only charges people could level against us has to be lies.

- How has the Gospel impacted the way you lived and caused others to ask questions?

Read v35-40

People who once celebrated Paul are now calling for his death. When Paul opposed Christianity, he was a hero, but now that he preaches the Gospel, he is a villain. The power has radically transformed his life.

- What in your life are you holding onto out of fear and not surrendering over to God?

Read Acts 22:1-16

Paul's apologetic, his defense of the gospel he is preaching was that Jesus wrecked his life! Jesus has changed everything for him; his affections, priorities, desires, what he values, etc. He also communicated in the language of the people, in a way they could understand.

- What keeps us from sharing our story with others as an opportunity clearly display the power of the Gospel?

Read v.17-22

Paul tells the people they are sinners by identifying with them and communicating that we are all sinners and in the same standing with God. Paul isn't focused on winning an argument, he is humbly and respectfully winning hearts.

- What would be different in how we share with people when we focus on winning hearts instead of winning the argument?
 - **1 Peter 3:13-16** *“13 Who then will harm you if you are devoted to what is good? 14 But even if you should suffer for righteousness, you are blessed. Do not fear them, or be intimidated,, 15 but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you. 16 Yet do this with gentleness and reverence, keeping a clear conscience, so that when you are accused, those who disparage your good conduct in Christ will be put to shame. 17 For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God’s will, than for doing evil.”*
 - How to Share Your Story: Keep it brief (3-5 minutes) and always share the gospel
 - Describe who you are/where you came from
 - Your life before the gospel (whether it was wicked or self-righteous)
 - Describe coming to believe the gospel
 - Share the gospel clearly
 - Avoid language that is too Christian