

Facing our Enemies

Series: The End of the Beginning (message 4) **Date:** June 27/28, 2020

Intro

Acts 21:27–22:22

Exodus 9:16

Exodus 19:5–6

KEEP THE MISSION FIRST.

USE EVERY OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GOSPEL.

- First build a bridge.

HE SHARES THE MOMENT OF CHANGE.

- Confrontation precedes transformation.

HE TELLS ABOUT “THE ONE.”

SHARE THE PURPOSE GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.

- Share even when people are unwilling to listen.

sermon discussion

OPENING DISCUSSION

As you start your group time today, take a few moments to share two or three things you are grateful for from this past week. Challenge your group members to take time every day to write down 3-5 things they are thankful for and then thank God, the giver of all good things.

RECAP THE SERMON

Read Acts 21:27-22:22. Spend some time discussing the passage. What stood out from this passage or what did you notice? What questions did you have about what you read? Next, discuss the sermon from the weekend. Was there anything new that you learned, anything that confused you or anything that stood out to you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. When was a time your words or actions were misunderstood by others?
2. In Acts 21 & 22 we read about how a mob was riled up by others who misunderstood or misrepresented Paul's words and actions. As a result, the emotions of the crowd were whipped into a frenzy and they sought to kill Paul. When have you seen your emotions lead to a poor decision or hurtful action? What can be done to guard against this happening or to help others when their emotions are leading to poor or hurtful decisions?
3. **Read Acts 22:1-19.** How does Paul describe his "former life" in verses 3-5 and 17-19?
4. Why might it be unhealthy to compare our personal testimonies with those of others?
5. Who helped you to put the pieces together to understand and accept the gospel? Have you ever had the opportunity to do that for someone else?
6. What parts of your story resonate with others or could help you to build a bridge so that others can better understand the gospel?
7. Paul sought to use every opportunity to share the gospel. When you have an audience, do you try to leverage it to point others to Jesus? Why or why not?
8. Are there any opportunities this week when you might be able to share Christ with someone? What could you do to prepare for that opportunity or how could this group help?

MEMORIZE

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

1 Peter 3:15 NIV