

²² Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, ⁿ “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For ^o he should not be allowed to live.” ²³ And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, ²⁴ the tribune ordered him to be brought into ^p the barracks, saying that he should be ^q examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this. ²⁵ But when they had stretched him out for the whips, ⁴ Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, “Is it lawful for you to flog ^r a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?” ²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, “What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen.” ²⁷ So the tribune came and said to him, “Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?” And he said, “Yes.” ²⁸ The tribune answered, “I bought this citizenship for a large sum.” Paul said, “But I am a citizen by birth.” ²⁹ So those who were about ^s to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also ^t was afraid, ^u for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that ^v he had bound him.

Paul Before the Council

³⁰ But on the next day, ^w desiring to know the real reason why he was being accused by the Jews, he unbound him and commanded the chief priests and all the council to meet, and he brought Paul down and set him before them.

Introduction

1. Menudo

Menudo's origins are firmly planted in peasant food heritage and poverty. According to research in pre-revolution Mexico, poverty among the *campesinos* was chronic and little if anything that might be prepared as food was left to waste. Usually, the best cuts of meat would go to the hacienda owners while the offal went to the poor workers. These leftovers consisted of organ meats, brains, head, tails, hooves, etc. Inventive peasant cooks created a soup that made good use of one of the major leftovers — the stomach. As cattle and sheep are ruminants that require lengthy intestinal tracts to digest their diet of grasses and raw seeds, the stomach is one of the largest pieces of offal available from these animals.

2. Neutral Experiences

- (1) Places you've been
- (2) Lives you've lived
- (3) Talents you possess
- (4) Important jobs you've held
- (5) People you've met
- (6) Hobbies you enjoy
- (7) Hardships you've endured
- (8) Losses you've experienced

★ Experiences are objective narratives, not subjective interpretations of your life's events

3. These experiences ~~are~~ repurposed for your good & others' (unbeliever = salvation)

Romans 8:28 - And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

(1) Nothing In A Kingdom Economy Goes To Waste

I. Don't Waste Your Audience (v22-74)

1. Your Audience is primed

Acts 17:25 - "[the Lord] himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. God did this so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us."

(1) God has placed them here

(2) God desires that they know him

2. Your audience is finite

(1) Who will listen

+ Paul successful w/ Gentiles
+ Peter " " " Jews

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 - For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

(2) How long will listen

+ Most initially listen because the Gospel affirms their desires

+ Most initially resist because the Gospel is a threat to their desires

+ Most re-engage if they can relate to your experience

3. God has purposed experiences as a means to these people, places & times.

II. Don't Waste Your Experiences (v 15-19) Acts 16:37-40 (Paul beaten before)

1. Experiences Can Be Leverage To The Gospel

- (1) Experiences shape our perspective
 - + Experiences in relationship to the Gospel
 - + Not the Gospel in relationship to experiences
- (2) Experiences drive our decisions
 - + For the Christian → not decisive
- (3) Experiences leverage a platform for the Gospel.

2. Experiences Can Be Liability To The Gospel

- (1) Not everyone will be impressed (v 28)

LIABILITY ← EXPERIENCE → LEVERAGE

UNTRUSTING OF OTHERS; CLOSED OFF TO PEOPLE

HURT BY OTHERS

LEVERAGING HOW THE GOSPEL CAN HEAL ALL WOUNDS

MORE IMPORTANT THAT CHARACTER; DISTRACTS

CAREER AS A _____

LEVERAGING HOW THE GOSPEL IS MORE THAN ENOUGH

ASHAMED OF PAST; NO TRANSFORMATIVE POWER

ABUSIVE PAST

LEVERAGING HOW TO THE GOSPEL CAN TRANSFORM ALL

III. Unwasted Experiences, Extend & Expand Your Audience (v30)

1. Leverage Increases your Audience

- (1) Extends existing audiences
- (2) Expands new audiences

2. Liability Decreases your Effectiveness

1 Thess. 4:13-18 - But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Limiting effect on encouragement

- (1) It's a liability because it is compartmentalization.
- (2) It's a liability because it's idolatry
- (3) It's a liability because it's not fully realized

Conclusion

1. Look at your list

- (1) What in your life are you not using to leverage Gospel for others sake?
- (2) They are liabilities

2. Look at the Gospel

(1) Just a few verses later after v28

Romans 8:32 - He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?