

ACTS 22

Revisiting the Road to Salvation

*11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.
Revelation 12:11*

In Acts 22 Paul had just barely escaped being beaten to death by a mob. Now in the custody of Roman soldiers, the unlikely heroes of the last chapter, Paul raises a hand to speak to the mob. Any normal human, as in not led by the Spirit, would have likely cursed them. But instead, Paul shared his testimony. He presented the truth of Christ by way of his story! It's interesting that Jesus chose to speak in story form (parables). Just as culture responds to stories. Every social media platform pushes a concept called "stories". Scientifically speaking, storytelling creates a unique emotional bond between the teller and the listener. Knowing this, and designing us this way, it makes sense that God would have spoken to His people in the story of the Bible.

Paul's story here sparked chaos, as well as interest. The Jewish mob almost believed him, until he mentioned Gentiles. Yet, the Roman commander was interested in the truth behind it all. On the Roman side, the presuppositions were laid to rest so the truth could be found. On the mob's side, their arrogant preconceived notions of who God is and how He works clouded their ability to see the truth. Nonetheless, Paul's love for the lost, and his would-be killers, became the theme of our narrative in Acts 22. An analogy of how God's love for His people shines brightest when we least deserve it.

Reflect on your testimony. Who were you before Christ? How about now? Share with your group.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you believe Paul chose to tell his story here rather than 'Preach the Gospel'? Can you see the gospel woven through his story?
2. Romans in this story didn't know who Paul was and assumed he was an Egyptian assassin. What assumptions did you make of God before you knew Him? What did you believe he was like? Did you feel worthy of God's Love? Did you think you needed Him?
3. What helped you set down your own ideas of God in order to truly see Him for who He is?
4. In what ways do Paul's actions here represent God's actions towards us? How can we better represent God to those around us in this way?
5. What is your salvation story? How does your story connect others to God? How is the Gospel woven into your testimony?