

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 5TH–6TH, 2026 // THE BOOK OF ACTS

THE OLD ME (ACTS 22:1–10)

PAUL WAS ONE OF THEM

After the riot and arrest in Jerusalem, Paul spoke to the mob in Aramaic in a completely Jewish context to get their attention.

- Paul gave a resume: A highly educated Jew trained by Gamaliel in Jerusalem, he knew the law and was “zealous for God” as he persecuted Christians.

OUR TESTIMONIES GIVE VALIDITY TO OUR FAITH

Paul spoke of his prior persecution and hatred of Christians to show that his transformation was truly miraculous.

- People need to know we can relate. **If we will build relationships with people and share what God has done in our lives, it presents our faith as real and practical.**

THE ONLY WAY

Paul shared his testimony, not to build himself up but to point to the One who saved and changed him. **Salvation and life change only come through Jesus Christ.**

- **Our lives change when we accept that we are incapable of fixing ourselves.** Jesus must always be our hope.

OBEYING THE MASTER

Paul didn't just encounter Jesus. He asked, “**Who are you, Lord?**” and “**What should I do, Lord?**”

- The knowledge of Jesus, even with a dramatic encounter, will not save and change us if we are not willing to **learn, submit** (“Lord”), and **obey** His directions.

LISTENING (ACTS 22:11–21)

“THE GOD OF OUR ANCESTORS”

As Paul continued to share his story, he subtly slipped in verbiage that connected Jesus to the OT prophecies about the Messiah.

- **The only way to accurately explain Jesus is to use Scripture.** We must be **very cautious to not “create” a Jesus based on culture or personal preference.**

OBEDIENCE LEADS TO HEARING FROM GOD

Paul humbled himself and listened to God's instructions, including being baptized and “calling on His [Jesus'] name.”

- The Bible is clear and contains universal guidelines Christians must follow. **We cannot expect to hear and be led by God if we will not submit and follow His instructions.**

A TRANCE IN THE TEMPLE

Paul had an experience similar to Moses, Ezekiel, and Isaiah, where he heard God give clear instructions while in a “trance.”

- Maybe Paul shared this and the foretelling that his testimony about Jesus would not be accepted to hopefully convince some in the mob to listen.

ALL PEOPLE MEANS ALL PEOPLE

Racism was deeply ingrained into First Century Jews. When Paul talked about Gentiles, it pushed the Jewish mob to their breaking point.

- We may not be racist, but we may be prone to prejudice or favoritism. **Christ calls us to love, respect, and try to reach all people without shying away from biblical truth.**

DEAF EARS (ACTS 22:22–30)

“THEY LISTENED TO HIM UP TO THIS POINT”

The mob couldn't fathom that God would be concerned for anyone but them. Their response to hearing Jesus is the Savior to all who humble themselves was to call for Paul to be “wipe[d]...off the face of the earth.”

- **Without humility and submission, we cannot be saved or changed.**

TEMPER TANTRUMS

Unwillingness to listen, paired with hubris and immaturity, eventually led to irrational anger and hatred. After being told truth they didn't want to hear, the mob started “flinging their garments and throwing dust into the air.”

- **When one's values aren't rooted in truth, their response to tension is chaos.**

A TRUMP CARD OR GOD'S OMNISCIENCE

As a soldier was about to “lash” Paul to “discover the reason they were shouting against him,” Paul mentioned to a nearby centurion that he was a Roman citizen.

- Why did Paul wait so long? Most likely, it was simply a matter of timing and not wanting secular privilege to overshadow faith.

IT STILL LEADS BACK TO GOD'S PROVISION

Paul was wise to know when and how to use his privileged Roman citizenship that was truly granted by God's provision.

- God knows us before birth (Jeremiah 1:5), and “those He foreknew He also predestined” (Romans 8). **We're to put effort into planning, but God makes a way** (Psalm 37; Proverbs 16).

CLAUDIUS WAS IN A TOUGH SPOT

Romans couldn't officially call the Sanhedrin, but Luke implies an informal meeting was called by Claudius to figure out what to do with Paul.

- The Sanhedrin had heard the testimonies of Jesus, the apostles, Stephen, and now Paul. This unfolds over six chapters and four years of Paul's life.

THE POWER OF OUR TESTIMONY

- As we build relationships with people, we need to **look for natural opportunities to share what Jesus has done in our lives.** When people trust us, **our testimonies give validity to our faith.**
- This doesn't ensure that people will listen or believe, but we must try.

THE POWER OF LISTENING AND OBEYING

- We should be people who are always pursuing the truth. A desire for truth will lead to the Bible, and after exposure to His Word, we must choose to submit.
- We may know of Jesus and truth, but **if we don't listen and obey Scripture and conviction, God will not move in our lives.**

THE POWER OF EFFORT AND RESPONSIBILITY

- We must put effort into listening, humility, and maturation. **God honors the work we put into ourselves and others when we grow in our faith and understanding of Him** (James 4:8).
- Christians must also accept responsibility for our actions and **not resort to childlike behaviors when confronted with truth.**

THE POWER OF TRUSTING IN GOD'S PROVISION

- Though we're to put effort into all corners of life, **ultimately any good results are by the grace and provision of God** (Js. 1:17).
- We may not always understand God's will or why certain things happen, but **we must trust He knows all and has a plan that glorifies His Kingdom and blesses us.**

AN INVENTORY

- Are we building relationships? Are we praying and looking for opportunities to share Jesus?
- Are we putting effort into our faith? Are we praying, learning, and obeying?
- As we put forth effort, are we seeking God's will and trusting in His provision?