



SERMON NOTES

Testimonial Power

The Book of Acts

Midweek Sermon

Pastor Carl Toti

December 2, 2020

Paul's Sympathetic Speech

Acts 22:1-2 (NLT)

1 "Brothers and esteemed fathers," Paul said, "listen to me as I offer my defense." 2 When they heard him speaking in their own language, the silence was even greater.

Paul's Simple Speech

Acts 22:3-5 (NLT)

3 Then Paul said, "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, and I was brought up and educated here in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. As his student, I was carefully trained in our Jewish laws and customs. I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did, just like all of you today. 4 And I persecuted the followers of the Way, hounding some to death, arresting both men and women and throwing them in prison. 5 The high priest and the whole council of elders can testify that this is so. For I received letters from them to our Jewish brothers in Damascus, authorizing me to bring the Christians from there to Jerusalem, in chains, to be punished.

Paul's Sincere Speech

Acts 22:6-10 (NLT)

6 "As I was on the road, approaching Damascus about noon, a very bright light from heaven suddenly shone down around me. 7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' 8 "'Who are you, lord?' I asked. "And the voice replied, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, the one you are persecuting.' 9 The people with me saw the light but didn't understand the voice speaking to me. 10 "I asked, 'What should I do, Lord?' "And the Lord told me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told everything you are to do.'

2 Corinthians 4:1-2 (NLT)

1 Therefore, since God in his mercy has given us this new way,[a] we never give up. 2 We reject all shameful deeds and underhanded methods. We don't try to trick anyone or distort the word of God. We tell the truth before God, and all who are honest know this.

Paul's Stouthearted Speech

Acts 22:11-23 (NLT)

11 "I was blinded by the intense light and had to be led by the hand to Damascus by my companions. 12 A man named Ananias lived there. He was a godly man, deeply devoted to the law, and well

regarded by all the Jews of Damascus. 13 He came and stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, regain your sight.' And that very moment I could see him! 14 "Then he told me, 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and hear him speak. 15 For you are to be his witness, telling everyone what you have seen and heard. 16 What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord.' 17 "After I returned to Jerusalem, I was praying in the Temple and fell into a trance. 18 I saw a vision of Jesus saying to me, 'Hurry! Leave Jerusalem, for the people here won't accept your testimony about me.' 19 "“But Lord,’ I argued, ‘they certainly know that in every synagogue I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. 20 And I was in complete agreement when your witness Stephen was killed. I stood by and kept the coats they took off when they stoned him.’ 21 “But the Lord said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles!’” 22 The crowd listened until Paul said that word. Then they all began to shout, “Away with such a fellow! He isn't fit to live!” 23 They yelled, threw off their coats, and tossed handfuls of dust into the air.

Philippians 1:12, 14 (NLT)

12 And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters,^[c] that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. 14 And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers^[e] here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message^[f] without fear.

Paul's Impressive Resume

1. Birthright Among God's Chosen People

Daniel 1:20 (NIV)

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

2. Highly Educated

Proverbs 23:23 (MSG)

23 Buy truth—don't sell it for love or money; buy wisdom, buy education, buy insight.

3. Zealous

Romans 10:2 (ESV)

For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

4. Relentless

1 Corinthians 15:58 (ESV)

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

5. Hatred

Romans 12:9 (NKJV)

“Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.”

Paul's Conversion

1. Saw a Great _____

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NLT)

4 Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

2. Heard Christ's _____

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

3. When God Calls, We _____

Acts 9:4-5 (NIV)

4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Acts 22:8 (NLT)

8 "'Who are you, lord?' I asked. 'And the voice replied, 'I am Jesus the Nazarene, the one you are persecuting.'

ANSWERS:

1. LIGHT

2. VOICE

3. ANSWER