

IN POWERED DISCIPLESHIP

An Inductive Study of the Book of Acts

Vocal Discipleship

Acts 21:40 - 22:39

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Focal Passages

➤ Scripture Reading Volunteers:

- ✓ Acts 21:40-22:5
- ✓ Acts 22:6-13
- ✓ Acts 22:14-21
- ✓ Acts 22:22-29

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Acts 1:8

“But you will receive **POWER**
when the Holy Spirit has come on you,
and you will be My witnesses in
Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.”

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PAUL THE PHARISEE

Acts 21:40 – 22:5

⁴⁰ After he had given permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned with his hand to the people. When there was a great hush, he addressed them in Aramaic;

¹ "Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense before you." ² When they heard that he was addressing them in Aramaic, they became even quieter. ³ He continued, "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strictness of our ancestral law. I was zealous for God, just as all of you are today. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, arresting and putting both men and women in jail, ⁵ as both the high priest and the whole council of elders can testify about me. After I received letters from them to the brothers, I traveled to Damascus to arrest those who were there and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished.

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PAUL THE PHARISEE

ACTS 21:40-22:5



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➤ What made the crowd quiet down?

- ❖ As a Jew of the Dispersion, Paul's native language would have been Greek.
- ❖ Romans spoke Latin or Greek at that time, so Paul spoke Greek to the Roman commander.
- ❖ But Palestinian Jews spoke Aramaic, so Paul spoke their native language to them.
- ❖ The crowd was pleased, if not surprised, that Paul spoke Aramaic as well as Greek.

PAUL THE PHARISEE

ACTS 21:40-22:5

GAMALIEL

A first-century AD teacher of the law of Moses, under whom Paul studied. He was part of the school of Hillel and **a member of the Sanhedrin.**

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➤ **What did Paul have to say about his rearing and training?**

- ❖ *“educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strictness of our ancestral law” (v3)*
- ❖ Gamaliel was loved and held in high esteem by all Jews; especially those in Jerusalem.

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PAUL THE PHARISEE

ACTS 21:40-22:5

Paul wanted them to know that he had been thoroughly committed to the Law and to stamping out Christianity.

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➤ **What was Paul like before his conversion?**

- ❖ *I was zealous for God, just as all of you are today.*
- ❖ *I persecuted this Way to the death, arresting and putting both men and women in jail,*
- ❖ *I traveled to Damascus to arrest those who were there and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished.*

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PAUL THE PHARISEE

ACTS 21:40-22:5

After setting the stage, Paul recounted the events of his conversion.

- **Why would Paul start off his personal testimony in this manner?**
 - ❖ To connect with his audience, he wanted them to understand that he was once one of them.
 - ❖ Paul met them where they were first, before trying to help them cross the bridge.
 - ❖ Paul wanted them to see that his determination was so deep that only a **radically supernatural transformation** could change his viewpoint.

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PAUL THE BELIEVER

Acts 22:6-13

⁶ "As I was traveling and approaching Damascus, about noon an intense light from heaven suddenly flashed around me. ⁷ I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, '**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?**'

⁸ "I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' "He said to me, '**I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one you are persecuting.**' ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light, but they did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

¹⁰ "I said, 'What should I do, Lord?' "The Lord told me, '**Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told everything that you have been assigned to do.**'

¹¹ "Since I couldn't see because of the brightness of the light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and went into Damascus. ¹² Someone named Ananias, a devout man according to the law, who had a good reputation with all the Jews living there, ¹³ came and stood by me and said, 'Brother Saul, regain your sight.' And in that very hour I looked up and saw him.

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PAUL THE BELIEVER

ACTS 22:6-13

IMO, Paul was converted on the Damascus road, but was filled with the Spirit at Judas' house and then baptized.
(Acts 9:17-18)

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➤ Where was Paul saved—on the Damascus Road or at Judas' house?

- ❖ *"¹¹For I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel preached by me is not of human origin. ¹²For I did not receive it from a human source and I was not taught it, but it came by a revelation of Jesus Christ."*
(Gal. 1:11-12)
- ❖ *"I said, 'What should I do, Lord?' "The Lord told me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told everything that you have been assigned to do.'" (Acts 22:10)*

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PAUL THE BELIEVER

ACTS 22:6-13

➤ How did Paul describe Ananias?

- ❖ A devout observer of the Law
- ❖ Highly respected by all the Jews in Damascus—"a good reputation."
- ❖ A brother in Christ; a Christian.

➤ Why would Paul mention Ananias?

- ❖ Paul wanted them to know that others who respected the law were responsive to Jesus too.

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PAUL THE WITNESS

Acts 22:14-21

¹⁴ And he said, 'The God of our ancestors has appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the words from his mouth, ¹⁵ since you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now, why are you delaying? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

¹⁷ "After I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw him telling me, '**Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.**'

¹⁹ "But I said, 'Lord, they know that in synagogue after synagogue I had those who believed in you imprisoned and beaten. ²⁰ And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I stood there giving approval and guarding the clothes of those who killed him.'

²¹ "He said to me, 'Go, because I will send you far away to the Gentiles.' "

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PAUL THE WITNESS

ACTS 22:14-21

Paul thought the Jews would be impressed by the radical change in his life; after all, he had been most zealous in persecuting believers before his conversion.

- Paul told the crowd that he came to Jerusalem immediately after his conversion but then left suddenly. Why?

❖ *"Hurry and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me."*

- What does Paul's response to Jesus' warning imply about his expectation of the Jews in Jerusalem?

¹⁹ "But I said, 'Lord, they know that in synagogue after synagogue I had those who believed in you imprisoned and beaten. ²⁰ And when the blood of your witness Stephen was being shed, I stood there giving approval and guarding the clothes of those who killed him.'

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PAUL THE WITNESS

ACTS 22:14-21

How did the
crowd respond?

- In sharing his testimony, Paul told the crowd that he:
 - Had become a Christian,
 - Had been appointed by God to know His will
 - Had seen the Messiah in person (Jesus, whom they crucified)
 - Had been called to bear witness to all people to what he had seen and heard.
 - Had been sent by God to witness to the Gentiles.

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PAUL THE PRISONER

Acts 22:22-29

²² They listened to him up to this point. Then they raised their voices, shouting, "Wipe this man off the face of the earth! He should not be allowed to live!"

²³ As they were yelling and flinging aside their garments and throwing dust into the air, ²⁴ the commander ordered him to be brought into the barracks, directing that he be interrogated with the scourge to discover the reason they were shouting against him like this. ²⁵ As they stretched him out for the lash, Paul said to the centurion standing by, "Is it legal for you to scourge a man who is a Roman citizen and is uncondemned?"

²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went and reported to the commander, saying, "What are you going to do? For this man is a Roman citizen."

²⁷ The commander came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen
"Yes," he said.

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PAUL THE PRISONER

Acts 22:22-29

²⁸ The commander replied, "I bought this citizenship for a large amount of money."

"But I was born a citizen," Paul said.

²⁹ So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately. The commander too was alarmed when he realized Paul was a Roman citizen and he had bound him.

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PAUL THE PRISONER

ACTS 22:22-29

By law,
Romans could not
be flogged unless
proven of a crime.

- **When Paul mentioned his commission to preach to the Gentiles, the mob flew instantly into rage and violence.**
 - ❖ People in the mob threw off their cloaks and flung dust into the air as expressions of intense anger.
 - ❖ The commander who could not understand Aramaic was confused by everything that was going on.
 - ❖ He was determined to get to the bottom of it all, even if it meant flogging Paul.
- **About to be "interrogated with the scourge," Paul announces his Roman citizenship.**

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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

VOCAL DISCIPLESHIP

- ➔ Paul's return to Jerusalem was risky, Jesus had previously warned him about the Jews and how they would respond. But Paul forged ahead, obedient to his calling, despite the angry mob.
- ➔ Does this scene sound familiar today? Where in the world are Christians facing a similar reaction right now?
- ➔ Let us be diligent in praying especially for our brothers and sisters in Afghanistan this week, for they are facing exactly what Paul faced, without the rights he had to protect him.

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INPOWERED DISCIPLESHIP

An Inductive Study of the Book of Acts

Conscientious Discipleship
Acts 22:30 - 23:35

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