

# The Power of our Testimonies

**Acts 21:27-22.29**

**Sermon Handout**

“I loved sin and was unwilling to forsake it. At times, I pretended to talk of virtue, yet my delight and habitual practice was wickedness.” John Newton, former slave trader

“I was no longer an atheist... I was sincerely touched with a sense of undeserved mercy in being brought safe through so many dangers. . . . I was a new man.” John Newton

“One of the first things you can do is realize that your testimony is **your** testimony, and very rarely are people going to argue with it, because they can't. So, you can start by sharing your testimony briefly and as it fits into this.” Rosario Butterfield

**Your testimony is God's script given specifically to you for the advancement of His kingdom through your story.**

## **I. Hostility and Hope: Opposition is Opportunity. Acts 21:27-36**

“When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, crying out, ‘Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place.’”

Acts 21:27-28

God is advancing his kingdom purpose through the madness of the crowd and the movement of the Roman powers. He is sovereign over the chaos of the crowds and the kings of the world.

"Do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice in so far as you share in Christ's sufferings that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you."

1 Peter 4:12-14

## **II. Testimonies are Opportunities to Display Gospel Humility. Acts 21:37-39**

“As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, ‘May I say something to you?’ And he said, ‘Do you know Greek? Are you not the Egyptian then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the

wilderness?’ Paul replied, ‘I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.’” Acts 21:37-39

"...always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame."  
1 Peter 3:14-16

We need to foster the habit of humility and kindness in our speech. Our testimony is not just what we say about Jesus but how we reflect the humility and grace of Jesus in the manner in which we speak of him.

**“I soon found the advantage of this change in my manner; the conversations I engaged in went on more pleasantly. The modest way in which I proposed my opinions procured them a readier reception and less contradiction...and I more easily prevailed with others to give up their mistakes and join with me when I happened to be in the right.” The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin**

### **III. Testimonies are Opportunities for Sharing our Commonalities. Acts 22:1-5**

"And he said: ‘I am a Jew, born of Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous as all of you are this day. I persecuted the Way to the death...” Acts 22:2-3

Testimonies are not the opportunity for conveying an air of spiritual superiority and exceptionalism. They are the opportunity to connect on a level of common experience.

Testimonies make it clear that we all are desperately in need of a Savior and none of us is righteous. No. Not one.

### **IV. Testimonies are Opportunities to Magnify God’s Miraculous Mercy. Acts 22:6-21**

“As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul,

why are you persecuting me?’ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’” Acts 22:6-8

Conversion is more than accepting the logic of the Christian faith. It is a supernatural event caused by the power and will of the resurrected Christ. No one enters the kingdom of God as a mere act of logic. You must be born again.

#### **Paul's Conversion was a Miracle:**

- Paul's conversion was a divine interruption.
- Paul's conversion was a divine transformation.
- Paul's conversion was a divine redirection.

Our testimonies are meant to point to the supernatural power of the risen Christ that has been revealed by the change that He has made without which would never have happened.

#### **V. Testimonies are Opportunities for God to Advance His Ultimate Purpose. Acts 22:22-29**

“Up to this word, they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, ‘Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.’ And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air, the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this.” Acts 22:22-24

Faithfulness is our calling. Salvation belongs to the Lord. We never fail if we are faithful. God never fails but always advances His kingdom cause.

“But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to other a fragrance from life to life.” 2 Corinthians 2:14-16

## Group Study Questions:

### 1. Hostility and Hope

In Acts 21:27–36, how does Paul’s arrest reveal that opposition can become opportunity in God’s hands?

### 2. Sovereignty in Chaos

What does this passage teach us about God’s sovereignty over crowds, governments, and chaotic circumstances? Where have you seen this in your own life?

### 3. Expecting Trials

How does 1 Peter 4:12–14 shape the way we should view hostility or suffering for Christ? Why is it important not to be “surprised”?

### 4. Prepared but Gentle

In Acts 21:37–39 and 1 Peter 3:14–16, what stands out about Paul’s tone and approach? How can we cultivate both boldness and gentleness in sharing our testimony?

### 5. The Manner of Our Message

The sermon states: “Our testimony is not just what we say about Jesus but how we reflect the humility and grace of Jesus.” What are practical ways our tone and posture either strengthen or weaken our witness?

### 6. Finding Common Ground

In Acts 22:1–5, why does Paul emphasize his shared background with his audience? How can we wisely identify commonalities when sharing with others today?

### 7. Guarding Against Superiority

Why is it dangerous to present our testimony with an air of spiritual superiority? How does remembering “none is righteous, no, not one” shape our attitude?

### 8. The Nature of Conversion

From Acts 22:6–21, what does Paul’s conversion teach us about the supernatural nature of salvation? How is conversion more than intellectual agreement?

### 9. Divine Interruption, Transformation, Redirection

Which of these aspects of Paul's conversion (interruption, transformation, redirection) resonates most with your own story? Why?

### **10. Highlighting God's Mercy**

When sharing your testimony, how can you ensure the focus remains on God's miraculous mercy rather than on your own experience?

### **11. Faithfulness vs. Results**

In Acts 22:22–29, Paul's testimony provokes anger rather than repentance. What does this teach us about success and faithfulness in evangelism?

### **12. The Aroma of Christ**

Reflect on 2 Corinthians 2:14–16. What does it mean to be the "aroma of Christ" to both those being saved and those who are perishing? How should that shape our expectations and courage?