

Acts of Jesus, Lesson 47: A Personal Testimony

Acts 21:27-29 — They figured if Paul would walk down the street with a Gentile that he would take him into the Temple.

Verses 30-38 —

Verses 39-40 — This brings up a special incident in the life and ministry of Paul.

- ✓ Let me show you something: **Romans 9:1-3**
 - ✓ His deep desire was for them, but his ministry had been almost exclusively to the Gentiles.
 - ✓ He was raised in Tarsus of Cilicia, but his real hometown and hometown crowd was in Jerusalem.
 - ✓ This was his only time to ever give his testimony to them!
 - ✓ Therefore, he speaks to them in Aramaic — a Hebrew dialect to make sure he catches all ears.
 - ✓ He had been their glory boy—the pride of Judaism and of the sect of the Pharisees, but he became a turncoat, in their eyes, and the worst enemy.
 - ✓ This is Paul's one and only shot, and he doesn't preach to them, instead he uses one the most powerful tools in the Christian's arsenal to bear witness to Christ — **his testimony!**
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Chapter 22:1-21

- ✓ Other religions are philosophies that have their doctrines and teachings, but there is one thing they do not have—changed lives.
 - ✓ Doctrines can be argued, but you can't argue with a changed life.
 - ✓ The strongest argument for the Good News about Jesus is someone's life who has been changed by it.
 - ✓ That's why Paul doesn't argue theology with these Jews
 - ✓ Your most powerful witnessing tool is the story of what Jesus has done for you.
 - ✓ When was the last time you told someone that story?
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Notice what Paul does here...classic example of a Christian testimony:

1. Starts where they are: Hebrew and lost **Chapter 22:1-5**
 - ✓ Your testimony has the most power with people you are most like and who share your background.
 - ✓ It is those people who need to hear your testimony the most.
 2. Tells them of how he accepted Christ. **Chapter 22:6-16**
 3. Tells them of what having Jesus in your life has done for you.
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All true testimony is testimony to Jesus Christ, as He stands on trial before the world.

Personal testimony eliminates some of the dreaded fears of speaking to someone about Christ:

- ✓ "I don't know what to say" -- but this is your personal experience...easy of falling off a log.
 - ✓ **Acts 4:20** — "for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."
 - ✓ "I can't answer the deep theological questions"
 - ✓ **John 9:25** — "He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."
 - ✓ "I can't do it without a lot of training"
 - ✓ **John 4:28-29** — So the woman left her waterpot, and went into the city and said to the men, "Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?"
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