

ACTS TO REVELATION

Drive Thru History | The World of the First Christians

This Week's Scripture

Read Acts 21-26

Additional Resources

TELLING OUR STORIES

This week we're going to watch the Apostle Paul tell the story of how he met Jesus and began to grow as an apprentice of Christ. In two very challenging contexts, Paul tells people how Jesus has transformed his life. The first time he shares that story in Acts 21-26, a riot re-ignites. During the second telling he receives two different responses. One person tells Paul that he's lost his mind and another person seems to be open to the possibility that Paul just might be on to something.

As we watch Paul tell his story, we want to think about how we can learn to tell our own story of the difference Jesus is making in our lives. Here are three questions to consider: (1) What was your life like before you met Jesus? What issues were you facing? (2) How did you come into a relationship with Christ? (3) What is different now that you're in a relationship with God? How is He transforming your life?

2-MINUTE TESTIMONY

See if you can tell your story in 2-3 minutes. Your ability to do that well just might make someone curious to want to know more about the One who is bringing hope and peace to your life.



Paul's Final Trip to Jerusalem & Caesarea

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

DISCERNING GOD'S WILL

At the close of his third and final missionary journey, the Apostle Paul reflects, "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." Acts 20:22-24 (TNIV)

Which part of this week's reading and video caught your attention the most? What insights did you glean? What questions do you have? Is God speaking to you about a situation in your own life through these Scriptures? What are you learning about God and His will?

THE INCLUSIVE GOSPEL

In 1871 the following inscription was discovered, "No foreigner is to go beyond the balustrade and the plaza of the Temple zone. Whoever is caught doing so will have himself to blame for his death which will follow." This warning was part of the Temple complex in Paul's day.

What was Paul accused of doing and what ignited the riot that erupted in the Temple? Who made it possible for Paul to tell his fellow Jews his story? What did Paul say that re-ignited the riot? See Acts 21:37-22:22

Small Group Prayer Requests

To help you pray for one another during the week, please take notes on the requests that are shared. Please remember that everything people talk about in your group is confidential..

Watch This Week's Episode Online



IF YOU WANT TO REVIEW EPISODES of Drive Thru History: Acts to Revelation, you can watch online at tubitv.com. **Just click [HERE](#) to watch episode 12, Paul's Final Trip to Jerusalem & Caesarea**

Week 13 Prep

Read Acts 27:1-28:10

What are some of the ways that the gospel of Jesus Christ is radically inclusive? What makes this inclusivity a possibility?

PAUL'S STORY AND YOUR STORY

In Acts 22:1-16, Paul told his conversion story to the rioters in the Temple area. When he appears before Festus, King Agrippa II and Agrippa's sister Bernice he tells his story once again. What seems most important for Paul to include when telling the story of meeting Jesus and growing as a disciple? How are some of the specifics of each version of his story determined by the context in which he is sharing it?

In the coming weeks, let's set aside some time to hear from one or two people in your group tell their own story of meeting Jesus. Christians, in general, can tend to be long winded which sometimes discourages people from asking us anything about what we believe. So, let's practice telling an abbreviated version of our story. If you only had 3 minutes how would you share your story of life with Jesus?. If someone is prepared to do that today, please have them share their story. Have someone set a timer for 3 minutes.

WISE DECISIONS?

We need to be cautious when we offer feedback on the decisions of other followers of Jesus. What questions or comments might you have about the following decisions made by the Apostle Paul?

- Choosing to go to Jerusalem, even though he was warned by the Spirit of God and others that trouble was in store for him if he did? See Acts 21:4, 21:10-14
- Paul's decision to tell the centurion in the Antonio Fortress that he had Roman citizenship.
- Paul's decision to verbally confront the High Priest after being struck.
- Deciding to tell the Sanhedrin that he believed in the resurrection of the dead, knowing that the Sadducees did not share Paul's belief but the Pharisees did. See Acts 23:6-10.
- His appeal to Caesar when being examined by Festus in light of the fact that King Agrippa ultimately concluded that Paul did nothing deserving death or chains. See Acts 25:11, 26:30-32

How do these decisions by Paul make you think about your own decision-making process? How are you encouraged by these examples from the life of Paul? Which, if any of his decisions, gives you pause or cause for concern when you think about the decisions you are facing in the coming weeks? Feel free to share with your group decisions you are facing. (This is not necessarily a time to offer advice but it might be a time to ask thoughtful questions if the person sharing is open to questions from the group.)

Share prayer requests and pray for one another.