



THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR TESTIMONY

Open it

1. What has been one of the biggest uproars of culture that you can think of?

Daily devotions

Day 1

TODAY'S THEME: EXPLORE IT

Read Acts 21:27–22:21

2. How would you summarize this passage?
3. What do you think was the main point of this part of Luke's story here?
4. Let's break down Paul's testimony:
 - A. What was Paul's life like before he came to Christ?
 - B. How did Paul come to the point of surrendering his life to Jesus?
 - C. How did Paul's life change after trusting in Jesus?

5. Is there anything about these verses that didn't make sense?

Day 2

TODAY'S THEME: THE SAD STATE OF THE JEWS

Read Acts 21:27–29

They're back! The rioting Jews that seemingly only want to ruin Paul's life have come back and are once again accusing Paul, beating him, and causing riots in the streets. It's important to note that these are not the same Jews as were mentioned earlier in Acts 21 who had believed but were still zealous about the law. These were Jews who had not trusted in Christ and were opposed to Paul's ministry and teaching. Their accusation against Paul was that he was teaching people and leading them away from Judaism and away from Jerusalem. They also accused him of bringing in a Gentile to the temple courts and defiling the temple of God.

While the first portion of their accusation is to some degree true, the second is just untrue. Yes, Paul has been teaching people that it isn't Judaism and /or its practices that bring people to salvation, but it is the person of Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection that brings eternal life. They had such a deep hatred of Paul's teaching and a passion for the Law that they literally just made assumptions and called them fact! Sound familiar? Same stuff happens today!

The Jews' passion and zeal for their faith is to be commended! Our churches today would look quite different if we shared the same zeal as the ancient Jews did—that's a fact! But it's quite sad when you think about it, because they had all this passion and zeal, but it was all misplaced. Rather than placing it in the person of Jesus Christ, as Paul and his companions had, they placed it in all the emptiness of tradition and Law, none of which can bring about salvation.

6. The Law was not a bad thing at all. After all, it was written by God Himself. Yet, it did not contain power within itself to bring salvation. What are some good causes that people today become so passionate about but that distract from the true mission of the gospel?

7. How should we as Christians bring a new kind of hope and perspective into the many "causes" of our world today? How do all these causes fall short of meeting the deepest needs of the world and humanity?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- Pray that you would have a unique opportunity to bring hope into someone's life.

Day 3

TODAY'S THEME: TODAY'S MOB RULE

Read Acts 21:30–36

Mob rule was quite popular back in the day as we can see from reading through the book of Acts! In almost every city Paul entered and preached the gospel, mobs would rise up against him and seek to harm him and halt his ministry. These mobs were never orderly, either; I suppose that's implied in the word mob. But notice the words Luke used to describe this mob that took place: stirred, people ran together, confusion, some shouting one thing and some another, uproar, and crying out. Those are some chaotic words and words that usually we don't see happening on the streets of our neighborhoods and cities all too often today.

But before we assume the principle of mob rule has passed away, let us remember that mobs still rule all too often today, just in different platforms. Today's mobs don't meet in intersections, but on social hubs and platforms all across the internet. The same principles ring true. There is mass confusion, stirred emotions, sharing of personal opinions, uproars and more, normally with the intent of ripping on an individual or way of thinking or way of life.

All too often, Christian beliefs, principles and practices are the topics in these online mob wars, and we need to be careful as Christians how we engage with them. It's foolishness to try to reason in these mob wars as you read through the threads. Most people don't engage with them for the sake of education or understanding, but to ridicule and mock because they have a platform to stand on where their voice can be heard.

8. What would you do if you saw one of your good friends post something online that was making bold claims against Christianity and mocking what you believe to be true?

9. How can you know if an "thread debate" (a debate taking place in the comment thread) is worth engaging with and sharing your thoughts, beliefs, or opinions?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✎ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- For wisdom to know how to most effectively and peacefully use tools like social media for the glory of God and spreading of the gospel

Day 4

TODAY'S THEME: PUTTING YOUR TESTIMONY TO WORK

Read Acts 21:37–22:21

Testimony: evidence or proof provided by the existence or appearance of something.

When falsely accused and cast out, Paul referred to his testimony—his story of God calling him to Himself and the mission God has called him to. Given the definition above, having a testimony implies that your life is evidence or proof of God's working in your life.

You and I have a testimony of how God has worked in our life to call us to salvation and what He has been up to with our lives ever since! Some of our testimonies may sound similar but all are unique. God has used unique people and unique circumstances to call each one of us to faith in Jesus Christ.

Your testimony may be your greatest witnessing tool. People can argue God and His existence all they want, but if your life is living proof of God's redemptive work and grace, then they can't argue that and make sense. It's like arguing gravity. You may not be able to see, touch, taste or hear gravity so someone could logically argue against it. But when the rock falls every time you drop it, the evidence becomes overwhelming. There must be a force causing this action to take place. Does your life continue to serve as evidence for God?

10. How have you seen God working in your life? How is your life acting as living evidence for the grace, mercy, and love of God?

11. Who is someone you know whose testimony provides such clear evidence for the power and grace of God that you seemingly can't deny God's existence when hearing their story?

I HAVE A QUESTION! ✍ Write it down so you can ask your leader or your parents!

PRAYER GUIDE ➤ Here is something you could pray for today:

- That you become more and more aware of how God is working in your life to change and mold you into the disciple He has called you to be

Day 5

TODAY'S THEME: BUILDING YOUR TESTIMONY

The hero of all our testimonies is God. As we share our stories of how God has changed our lives, if the focus becomes us and what we have done, then it is no longer a testimony about God's power and love at work in our life. God is the true hero of our stories!

With that said, let's build your testimony! Maybe you have already done this. Great! It never hurts to do it again just because it helps remind us of God's work in our lives, which can sometimes shed light on what God is doing now. Maybe you've never done this before. Don't worry, we'll help you through it all.

Read Acts 22:3–5

We could call this section the “before I knew Jesus” section of your testimony. Simply write down what your life looked like before you trusted Jesus as your Lord and Savior.

Read Acts 22:6–11

We could call this the “come to Jesus moment” section of your testimony. Simply write down what things were going on in your life that led you to place your trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of your sins and for eternal life.

Read Acts 22:12–22

We could call this the “after trusting in Jesus” section of your testimony. Simply write down how your life looks different now that you've placed your trust in Jesus. How have you changed? What are different ways you've seen God working in your life?

When you put these three sections together, it makes your story, or your testimony—the evidence that God has in fact changed your life! Take a minute to thank and praise God for all He has done in your life!

Note: This study guide was written by Pastors Tim Badal, Mario Arindaeng, and Jeremy Anderson, Village Bible Church. www.villagebible.church