

## *Will you go and share your story?*

31 Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— 33 even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.  
1 Corinthians 10:31-33, 11:1

*When we follow Paul's example, we shouldn't be surprised if we're rejected the same way he was. You know you're in good company because it's how they treated Jesus too.*

## *What do you need to do to be prepared?*

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

1 Peter 3:15

Notes:

### Community Group Questions:

1. What is the most important takeaway in this story for you?
2. What does it look like for you to meet people where they're at without compromising your faith?
3. Have you ever written your testimony out and shared it?
4. What can you do to be prepared to share the hope Jesus has given you with others?



## The Power of a Testimony

Acts 21:17 - 22:22

Corbett Robertson - Sierra Community Church  
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17 When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers received us warmly. 18 The next day Paul and the rest of us went to see James, and all the elders were present. 19 Paul greeted them and reported in detail what God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. 20 When they heard this, they praised God. Then they said to Paul: "You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed, and all of them are zealous for the law. 21 They have been informed that you teach all the Jews who live among the Gentiles to turn away from Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or live according to our customs. 22 What shall we do? They will certainly hear that you have come, 23 so do what we tell you. There are four men with us who have made a vow. 24 Take these men, join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everybody will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law... 27 Some Jews from the province of Asia saw Paul at the temple. They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him, 28 shouting, "Men of Israel, help us! This is the man who teaches all men everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple area and defiled this holy place."

(They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple area.) Acts 21:17-22:22 (NIV)

### ***Trouble ahead, Paul went anyway***

19 Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

20 To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews.

To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

1 Corinthians 9:19-20

What does it look like for you to meet people where they're at without compromising your faith?

31 Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 32 Do not cause anyone to stumble, whether Jews, Greeks or the church of God— 33 even as I try to please everyone in every way. For I am not seeking my own good but the good of many, so that they may be saved.

1 Corinthians 10:31-33

### ***Will you go even when it's uncomfortable?***

*The Spirit told Paul prison and hardship were waiting for him in Jerusalem. (Ch 20) His friends got the same message from the Spirit and their response was to try and get Paul not to go. Paul didn't hear trouble as an excuse not to go, or the Spirit telling him to stay away because he would find trouble. Paul went because that's where he believed God wanted him to go in spite of what awaited him.*

How about us?

### ***Paul's testimony***

I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today. I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, as also the high priest and all the Council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

Acts 22:3-5

### ***Will you share your story?***

Better yet, who is God asking you to share your story with?

17 "When I returned to Jerusalem and was praying at the temple, I fell into a trance <sup>18</sup> and saw the Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' <sup>19</sup> " 'Lord,' I replied, 'these men know that I went from one synagogue to another to imprison and beat those who believe in you. <sup>20</sup> And when the blood of your martyr Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.' <sup>21</sup> "Then the Lord said to me, 'Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.' " <sup>22</sup> The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, "Rid the earth of him! He's not fit to live!"

Acts 22:17-22