

Sharing God's Story

When it comes to sharing God's story with others, there is no silver bullet. In these two chapters Paul and Barnabas have two very different methods of sharing the Good News about God. Likewise for us, it is helpful when we know our audience and learn to use language that they can relate to.

Remember you're watching experts at work! What's the result? Some amazing stories but also some life threatening opposition! Don't be surprised when you experience opposition. Not everyone is going to be thrilled to hear the Good News about Jesus and what He's doing in your life.

<u>Matthew 5:11-12</u> Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

<u>Acts 5:41</u> The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name.

"the point of this whole narrative, and it's larger framework, is precisely to show the explosive, if deeply confusing, effects of taking the message of Jesus out into the wider world. The journey of the gospel from Jerusalem, 'to the ends of the Earth', (acts 1:8 is unstoppable, but uncomfortable. That comes with the territory". - N.T. Wright, Acts for Everyone: Part 2 page 31

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<u>Community Group Questions:</u>

1. What did you hear? What hit home from the message? How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?

2. Clearly, Paul is gifted in many ways, yet he seems to always be working with a team of people. Who is on your team? Who are you supporting and who is supporting you as you follow and serve God?

3. Paul uses different content when he shares God's Good News in these chapters (13:16-41 & 14:15-17). Take some time and do a brief bullet point outline for each. What can you learn from each approach ?

