

Acts of the Apostles

Part 45 – Telling Your Story

Acts 22

What language are you speaking? (21.40-22.2)

- Tone matters – are you communicating “I’m not better than you?” Are you communicating that you have some things in common (without boomeranging the conversation to be about you)?
- Content matters – do you use religious words?
- These two combined can (and often do) grant you a hearing – a quieter, saner voice stands out in today’s culture

Who were you before Christ? (v.3-5)

- Paul: corrupted with carnage – it was evident
 - We might be more like him than we think we are
- We might not be quite as evident
 - Who would you be without Jesus?
 - In what ways do you know this to be true? Where you have failed when tempted and tried, what have you tended toward? What was your trajectory?

How did Christ meet you? (v.6-16)

- Paul: dramatic and defining experience (same for some listening)
 - Throughout his letters, Paul writes these summaries that reveal the lasting impact
 - 1 Cor. 15.3-4 – 2 Cor. 4.6 – Gal 1.4 – Eph 1.7 – Phil 2.6-8 – Col 1.13-14 – 1 Thes 1.9-10 – 1 Tim 1.15-16 – 1 Tim 2.5 – Titus 3.5
- It doesn’t have to be dramatic for it to be miraculous
 - “It was the most natural thing for me to believe in Christ” – true because of way you were raised, but spiritually it’s death to life
- Others played a key role
 - Ananias was the bridge for the truth to come into Paul’s life
 - This may be true for the very person you’re sharing coffee with which should motivate you to share! There’s no way to mess this up because this is your story

What has changed? (v.17-21)

- Often where the story has the most impact
- Questions:
 - How are you relating to Christ now?

- What has He said that has challenged you or guided you?
- What has He helped with? (actions, shame, etc.)
- What has He given you to do that has purpose / renewed purpose?

Questions for Discussion:

1. Who was the most influential person in your life that helped you understand the Gospel and what it meant to follow Jesus? What did that influence look like?
2. What kind of stories do you remember from your life before Christ? How did they shape you to become who you are today? For those who grew up around church, how would you describe your life in the moments where you try to live apart from Him?
3. What does it mean to “rehearse the Gospel” in your life? How might you do that? What might be the result? How could it affect your worship? Your witness to others?
4. Out of the four questions in the last point (what has changed?), which is easiest for you to answer? How would you answer it? Which is most difficult for you to answer? How would you answer it?