



THE STORY *continues...*

Join us each week as God weaves His Story into the fabric of our daily lives.

Chapter 30 Paul's Final Days

Listen to *The Story*

Read **Chapter 30** of *The Story*

What are a few significant moments in Paul's missionary journeys that speak to you in a profound way? Perhaps passages you've read in the past but reading them again are new in some way.

Learn *The Story*

Look for ways in which God's story and your story connect this week.

Read the following excerpt again from *The Story*:

Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said, "My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day." At this the high priest Ananias ordered those standing near Paul to strike him on the mouth. Then Paul said to him, "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!"

Now read: Jeremiah 1:9-10 and Isaiah 6:1-7

In these three passages there are references to "the mouth." What is unique about each passage and the events and circumstances that draw attention to "the mouth?" What is different about each? What does each situation communicate regarding God's Word and the mouth of prophets and evangelists like Jeremiah, Isaiah and St. Paul?

Love *The Story*

Intentionally take a step forward in faith.

As a family, decide to support and serve at one of the many places in our community. Trinity serves as a group at IOCP, Simpson Shelter, and Crisis Nursery. Watch for opportunities in the weekly Trinity E-News to serve! Be like the Apostle Paul!

Luther's Explanation

Consider Your Call!

Last Sunday, we sang this verse from the African American spiritual, "There Is a Balm in Gilead": "If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul, you tell the love of Jesus and say, 'He died for all.'" One of the hallmarks of the Lutheran confessions is something called, "Vocation." The word comes from a Latin term, *vocare*, meaning, "calling"—which implies a caller—God. God calls more than just pastors. God calls each of us, gives us many gifts, and gives us a lift up by means of the Spirit.



Actually, we all have more than one vocation. Our Christian vocations include our jobs, our roles as family members, our roles as friends, as neighbors, as citizens, and so on. Vocation is all about loving the neighbor and serving in God's name. As such, God is interested in what we do with our time and energy every day, not just on Sunday. God does not call us out of the world. We are called to serve God where we live and breathe.

In 2 Timothy, Paul reminds Timothy that his grandmother, Lois, and his mother, Eunice, have taken their vocations or calls seriously. They instilled a strong faith in Timothy. Now there's a noble calling!

To what vocations, or callings, have you been called? What difference does it make to you if you view an undertaking as vocation, rather than as a job or obligation?

PROMISE

This week, cling to God's promise for you:

"I have a plan for you—a great and grand and glorious vision for your future."

The EXTRA Mile



View another, even more classic version of the story of St. Paul by watching the film "Life of St. Paul" with your family: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R7Blas88cL4>