

ACTS 26 “Paul Gives His Testimony” (Repentance—Forgiveness—the Resurrection)

1. **J. B. Phillips** was right saying that sometimes **our God is too small**. If we get hung up on the problems and the challenges before us, it’s because we fail to realize the size, strength, and heart of our Father. Our God made billions of stars in the Milky Way Galaxy and millions of galaxies the size of the Milky Way...
(Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; Hebrews 11:17-19; Job 14:14; 19:26; 1 Corinthians 15:17-19; 15:32; Isaiah 26:19)
2. In verses 12 through 18 Paul does something that each and every one of us can do—should do!
He gives his personal testimony!
(1 Peter 3:15; Romans 6:23; Acts 22:20)
3. Each of us have been called to be “a minister and a witness.” Each of us should be willing to fulfill those same purposes—we have also been called to share our story.
4. Most of us don’t doubt the **power** of God, but we doubt His willingness to intervene in our situations personally. How do we know God cares about us?
The answer lies in the Cross.
(Matthew 3:1-2; Jeremiah 31:19; Ezekiel 18:23)
5. Paul is saying, “I wish you had the peace, the liberty, the power, the joy, the gladness of **my** heart and life.”
That is the **greatness** of the gospel! It can rise above every circumstance, every situation...

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TAKING IT HOME

- 7) Paul's testimony showed the difference in his heart - how he had once been attacking the gospel, and was now spreading the gospel. As you look at your own, personal history with Jesus, what has changed for you? How has your heart been reoriented? What sin(s) has He delivered you from?

In what way(s) would you like to see Jesus *continue* to work in your heart and life? What sin(s) do you still need to be delivered from?

What idol(s) hinder you in your spiritual growth?

- 8) Take some time to reflect on the following verse. Then, take some personal time to pray and ask God to continue His work on your heart and life.

Romans 8:32 NLT - "*Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?*"

- 9) Looking back at this week's teaching and homework, what is most important for you to remember and why?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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- ▶
- ▶

Life Group Homework For the week of September 26, 2021

MY STORY

- 1) This week in Acts 26, Paul shared his personal testimony of how he met Jesus (or how Jesus met *him!*). Summarize your personal testimony of how Jesus met you. Some details might include what your life was like before Jesus - how/why you realized your need for Jesus - and how He has changed your life since. Try to keep it to a minute or less.

- 2) Looking back at your notes, what stood out to you from this week's message in Acts 26? (Favorite point? Questions? etc..)

DIGGING DEEPER

- 3) This week Don shared that when he found himself answering *why* he believed in Jesus, his answer came down to *forgiveness*. Read the following passages, noting any questions or highlights you have.

Acts 13:38-41 NLT - "[38] *Brothers, listen! We are here to proclaim that through this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. [39] Everyone who believes in him is declared right with God--something the law of Moses could never do. [40] Be careful! Don't let the prophets' words apply to you.*

For they said, [41] 'Look, you mockers, be amazed and die! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it.'"

Romans 3:25-26 NLT - "[25] For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, [26] for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight when they believe in Jesus."

Why do you think the law of Moses could not make us right with God (Acts 13:39)?

In what way(s) do you think God is "fair"?

In what way(s) do you think God is *not* "fair"?

- 4) Why doesn't God let people be saved apart from Jesus? Use the following passages to help you answer.

Acts 4:12 - ""Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.""

John 14:6 - "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

- 5) In Acts 26:8 Paul asks his audience why they might be surprised that God raises the dead. Have you ever (or do you currently) struggled to believe a miracle in the Bible? If so, what is it and why has it been hard to believe?

How do the following passages encourage you to trust that God is big enough to do all things in Scripture?

Genesis 1:1 - "*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*"

Romans 1:20 NLT - "*For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.*"

- 6) Read the following passage, then answer the question below.

1 Peter 3:15-17 - "[15] But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; [16] having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. [17] For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."

What would you say if a friend asked you, "Why do YOU believe in Jesus?"