

Paul's Testimony Before a Crazy Mob: A Message for People Who Are Upset Acts 22:01–21

1 *Paul's great love for his people*

- a. His feelings:
Called them brothers, fathers
- b. His appeal:
Spoke to them in Aramaic

2 *His former life*

- a. His personal heritage
 - 1) A Jew
 - 2) Of Tarsus, but brought up in Jerusalem
 - 3) Educated under the greatest teachers
 - 4) Educated in the law
 - 5) Zealous for God
- b. His hostility against Christianity

2 *His conversion*

- a. The light from heaven
- b. The confrontation with the Lord
 - 1) The charge of sin
 - 2) The request to know the Lord
 - 3) The shattering truth: Jesus is Lord

1 “Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defence.”

2 When they heard him speak to them in Aramaic, they became very quiet. Then Paul said:

3 “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.

4 I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison,

5 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.

6 About noon as I came near Damascus, suddenly a bright light from heaven flashed around me.

7 I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, ‘Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?’

8 ‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked. ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting,’ he replied.

c. The witnesses to the event

d. The surrender

- 1) The acknowledgement: Lord
- 2) The surrender
- 3) The command:
Get up and go

e. The obedience

4 *His call and commission through Ananias*

a. Ananias, a devout,
God-fearing Jew

b. Paul's call and commission

- 1) To know God's will
- 2) To see the Righteous One
- 3) To hear His voice
- 4) To be a witness to all men

- 5) To be baptised as a Christian

5 *His clear instructions from God*

a. When: While in prayer

b. The instruction:
To get out of Jerusalem
immediately

9 My companions saw the light,
but they did not understand the voice of him
who was speaking to me.

10 'What shall I do, Lord?' I asked.
'Get up,' the Lord said,
'and go into Damascus.
There you will be told
all that you have been assigned to do.'

11 My companions led me by the hand
into Damascus, because the brilliance
of the light had blinded me.

12 A man named Ananias came to see me.
He was a devout observer of the law
and highly respected by all the Jews
living there.

13 He stood beside me and said,
'Brother Saul, receive your sight!'
And at that very moment I was able to see him.

14 Then he said: 'The God of our fathers
has chosen you to know his will
and to see the Righteous One
and to hear words from his mouth.

15 You will be his witness to all men
of what you have seen and heard.

16 And now what are you waiting for?
Get up, be baptised and wash your sins away,
calling on his name.'

17 When I returned to Jerusalem
and was praying at the temple,
I fell into a trance

18 And saw the Lord speaking.
'Quick!' he said to me.
'Leave Jerusalem immediately,
because they will not accept
your testimony about me.'

c. The argument of Paul:
Especially qualified
to reach Jews

19 “‘Lord,’ I replied, ‘these men know
that I went from one synagogue to another
to imprison and beat those
who believe in you.

20 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.’

d. The Lord’s emphatic counsel:
Depart!
Go to the Gentiles

21 Then the Lord said to me,
‘Go; I will send you
far away to the Gentiles.’”