

Acts 22 – 11 October 2020

The Chance Of A ‘Lighttime’

Introduction

*Paul has completed his trips around the world witnessing for Christ

*He’s been pressed of the H.S. to go back to Jerusalem to witness to his own people, the Jews, even knowing that bonds & affliction awaited him

*In Acts 21 – he’s been beaten & arrested, but given the chance to speak openly to his people!

*To Paul, this is the chance of a lifetime!!

*It’s “lighttime” (Read Matt 4:16-17)

*This was the chance of a lifetime for Paul to share the Gospel, but when the Light comes, it’s the chance of a lifetime for the hearers to receive it.

Today, 3 messages that bring light we need to identify with to receive salvation

Paul begins his chance of a lifetime by building commonality

Read Vs 1-3

1. I was raised as a Jew in the Law, just like you
2. Even the way he spoke (Hebrew) was relatable and relevant to them
3. When around Gentiles, Paul related to them
 - a. Their statue to the Unknown God
4. When around Jews, Paul related to them
 - a. So that he may win them (I Cor 9:20)
5. Be super relevant in style and speech, but unchanging in truth and doctrine

Read Vs 3b-5

1. I zealously served God, just as you
2. I persecuted the Christians, just like you
3. Paul saw stopping Christians as service to God, just as they did
4. Be sure to present the idea that we're no better or worse than our audience.

1st message of light to identify with for salvation – Jesus has risen from the dead (Chap 22:6-11)

Read Vs 6-9

1. A detail that is added to this telling of the story is that it was Jesus “of Nazareth”
 - a. This detail is helpful to a Jewish audience
2. Jesus intercepted Paul, not vice versa
 - a. Paul says, ‘this happened to me, whether I liked it or not’.
3. Paul saw a flashing light AND heard the voice
 - a. Perfect physical example of the spiritual principle Jesus taught in Matt 4 (from intro)
4. Vs 9 – Others were given light, but didn’t hear the voice of God

Read Vs 10-11

1. I asked what to do, told go to Damascus
2. See, the light sunk in and affected Paul, it didn’t sink in and affect the others.

Application

1. The Jews like powerful Jews
 - a. A risen leader isn't necessarily an offense
 - b. This is offensive to many Greeks. Striving for wisdom, foolishness to them
 - c. Paul declaring Jesus alive and powerful to them would be exciting
 - i. But what is this powerful, risen Jesus going to teach and tell Paul?
 - ii. Will they accept that?
2. Jesus is the Light (Turn to John 12:28-36)
 - a. He declared He'll rise from the dead
 - b. Notice the unbelievers here heard the voice of God, but didn't let it sink in to change them

2nd message of light to identify with for salvation – Jesus is Lord & washes away sins (Chap 22:12-16)

Read Vs 12

1. Christian Ananias wasn't offensive to the Jews

Read Vs 13-14

1. Ananias says, "The God of the Jews has chosen you to see Jesus." To receive His LIGHT.
2. It directly ties Judaism to Jesus Christ

Read Vs 15-16

1. Baptized = identified with this Just One
2. Sins washed away by the Lord Jesus

Application

1. The Jews like the idea of being clean
 - a. A Master who makes them righteous isn't necessarily an offense
2. Turn to John 1:9-13, 29 – Jesus is the light that washed away sins

**3rd message of light to identify with for salvation –
Jesus is Savior equally to all humanity (Chap 22:17-23)**

Read Vs 17-18

1. Paul originally went to the Jews to tell them what happened to him.
2. As recorded in Acts 9:29, they weren't receiving the message and were trying to kill him
3. Jesus asked Paul to leave Jerusalem

Read Vs 19-20

1. Paul tried to reenforce the idea that his countrymen will eventually listen to him
2. Jesus is the one sending him out of Jerusalem.
 - a. Out to where?

Read Vs 21

1. And on this word the listening Jews were turned off

Read Vs 22-23

1. They could handle the thought of a risen, powerful, Jewish Jesus
2. They could handle the thought of Jesus as Lord who washes away their sins bringing righteousness
3. They COULDN'T handle the thought that they're no better than the Gentiles.
4. Jews want to be seen as more important than others – equality w/ unclean people is offensive
5. Holding this pride by the Jews is pure evil
6. Turn to John 3:19-21
 - a. They need to forsake this bigotry to be able to accept Christ and His free gift of salvation
 - b. Many have “one thing” they're holding on to that must be forsaken to accept Christ.
 - i. Some hold on to a lustful sin
 - ii. Some hold on to a lie
 - iii. Some hold on to misplaced anger at God
 - c. Forsake it and come to the light of Christ

Identity Means Everything (Chap 22:24-30)

Read Vs 24-29

1. Paul plays the “I’m a Roman” card
2. Identity means everything
 - a. 1st they thought he was Egyptian (wrong)
 - b. 2nd they find that he’s Jewish
 - c. 3rd they find that he’s a Jewish Roman!
 - d. If they could have only found out that his true identity was that of a Christian!
3. Paul wasn’t looking to assert his identity; he’s looking to assert identity of the Light of the world!
 - a. Vs 29 says the Roman Captain “was afraid”
 - i. If only they gave that much awe to Paul b/c he was a Christian, as b/c he’s was Roman
 - b. Same w/ the Jews - Not good enough to accept some of the identities of Christ, need to accept all identities

Read Vs 30

1. He’s sent to Jews to know what he did wrong

Conclusion

Yes for Paul this was the chance of a lifetime to share saving faith with his countrymen, but it was truly THEIR chance of a lifetime.

They may never get the chance ever again to hear the message

When we get the chance, make it a chance of a “lighttime” to share Jesus the Light of the World!

1. **Share that Jesus has risen from the dead**
2. **Share that Jesus is Lord and washes away our sins**
3. **Share that Jesus is the Savior for ALL who comes**

Read II Cor 4:4-6

As we arrive at our dying day, the only identity that will matter is that we're found in Christ.

Our occupation, family or church affiliation won't matter, but that we have the light of Jesus within us!!