

Logos Class – Acts of the Apostles

On Campus class for Jan 2, 2022

Acts Ch 22 – Paul arrested in Jerusalem

Our next few weeks...

- *Jan 2, 2022 – Acts 22*
- *Jan 9, 2022 – Acts 23*
- *Jan 16, 2022 – Acts 24*
- *Friday, Jan 21, 2022 - My back surgery*
- *Jan 23, 2022 – Bill Minor*
- *Jan 30, 2022 – Acts 25*

Note: *Kaleigh will be back one Sunday in January*

Before we start back in Acts...*Hope for 2022*

Isa 46:10

*¹⁰ I make known **the end from the beginning,**
from ancient times, **what is still to come.***

*I say, '**My purpose will stand,**
and I will do all that I please.'*

Gods Plan will be done...either by direct will or permissive will

In All things

Romans 8:28

*28 And we know that in **all** things **God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.***

Peace, and freedom from fear

John 14:27

*27 Peace I leave with you; **my peace** I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. **Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.***

What ever happens, keep the Peace of the Lord and do not be afraid

Joyful, Patient, and Faithful

Rom 12:12

¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

But how can I do that if I am discouraged?

Finally, wait for the Olive leaves

In a devotional from Max Lucado, he talks about Noah, and the despair he must have felt when he labored so many years and no one but his family believed and came with him into the Ark.

The rain, the dark days, the discouragement, the wondering if it would ever end or if it was a mistake to do this. How could they survive? How could the world survive?

*Then Noah again released a dove from inside the ark and **watched** it leave... and waited and waited until evening when it returned.*

***Gen 8:11** ¹¹ When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! **Then Noah knew** that the water had receded from the earth.*

Look for Hope...

When we despair and are discouraged by what is going on around us and feel like we are all alone and there is no hope...God sends an Olive leaf, the symbol of peace, and Hope in the future.

Be looking for Hope in 2022 and see the Olive leaves God has provided for us.

Acts Ch 21:30-36 *Paul thrown out and beaten*

*³⁰ The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. **Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut.***

³¹ While they were trying to kill him, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.

*³² He at once took some **officers and soldiers** and ran down to the crowd. **When the rioters saw the commander and his soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.***

*³³ The commander came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. **Then he asked who he was and what he had done.***

*³⁴ Some in the crowd shouted one thing and some another, and since the commander could not get at the truth because of the uproar, **he ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks.***

³⁵ When Paul reached the steps, the violence of the mob was so great he had to be carried by the soldiers.

*³⁶ The crowd that followed kept shouting, **“Get rid of him!”***

Acts Ch 21:37-40 *Paul Speaks...*

³⁷ As the soldiers were about to take Paul into the barracks, he asked the commander, “May I say something to you?”

“Do you speak Greek?” he replied. ³⁸ “Aren’t you the Egyptian who started a revolt and led four thousand terrorists out into the wilderness some time ago?”

³⁹ Paul answered, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no ordinary city. Please let me speak to the people.”

⁴⁰ After receiving the commander’s permission, Paul stood on the steps and motioned to the crowd. When they were all silent, he said to them in Aramaic:

When speaking to a hostile crowd...learn from Paul

- *Three **basic** elements*
 - *Communicator - PAUL*
 - *Receiver- JEWS*
 - *Message - DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL*
- *Outcomes Desired*
 - *Message to be **clear***
 - *Message to be **understood***
 - *Message to be **effective for its purpose***
- ***Helpful to establish rapport with audience***

All of these are critical to good communications

Acts Ch 22:1-2 Paul begins to speak to them

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

² *When they heard him speak to them in **Aramaic**, they became **very quiet**.*

Acts Ch 22:3-5

Then Paul said:

3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors. I 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 the high priest and all the Council can themselves testify. I even obtained letters from them to their associates in Damascus and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

Acts Ch 22:6-11 ...and *THEN*...

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.*

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.*

Acts Ch 22:12-16 *and what happened next?*

*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 ancestors 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 people of what you have seen and heard.

*¹⁶ And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.’ **(discuss this verse)***

Acts Ch 22:17-21 *a sober reality for Paul*

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

*18 and saw the Lord speaking to me. ‘**Quick!**’ he said. ‘**Leave Jerusalem immediately, because the people here will not accept your testimony about me.**’*

*19 “‘**Lord,**’ I replied, ‘**these people 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^[witness] Stephen was shed, I stood there giving my approval and guarding the clothes of those who were killing him.’

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

Acts Ch 22:22-29 Paul plays the Roman card

²² The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, **“Rid the earth of him! He’s not fit to live!”**

²³ As they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air,

²⁴ the commander ordered that Paul be taken into the barracks. He directed that he be flogged and interrogated in order to find out why the people were shouting at him like this.

²⁵ As they stretched him out to flog him, Paul said to the centurion standing there, **“Is it legal for you to flog a Roman citizen who hasn’t even been found guilty?”**

²⁶ When the centurion heard this, he went to the commander and reported it. **“What are you going to do?”** he asked. **“This man is a Roman citizen.”**

²⁷ The commander went to Paul and asked, **“Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?”**

“Yes, I am,” he answered.

²⁸ Then the commander said, **“I had to pay a lot of money for my citizenship.”**

“But I was born a citizen,” Paul replied.

²⁹ Those who were about to interrogate him withdrew immediately. **The commander himself was alarmed** when he realized that he had put Paul, a Roman citizen, in chains

Acts Ch 22:30...*Paul's message goes higher*

*³⁰ The commander wanted to find out exactly why Paul was being accused by the Jews. So, **the next day he released him and ordered the chief priests and all the members of the Sanhedrin to assemble.***

Then he brought Paul and had him stand before them.

So... what have **we** learned from Paul?

When speaking to non-believers about the Lord,

- ***we need to speak in a language and words they will understand. Speak in terms that are not confusing***
- ***We need to speak in a way that makes us part of their group...family, sinners, unbelievers, building rapport.***
- ***We need to tell a story about what made us change and believe...OUR story.***
- ***We need to try and build a logical sequence of why we changed and why it is important.***
- ***We may not complete the story, but the HS will be guiding and leading, and we accept that result for the moment***

Like Paul, we must always maintain our composure, even if attacked

Acts 23:1 *the Sanhedrin firestorm...*

¹ *Paul looked straight at the Sanhedrin and said,
“My brothers, I have fulfilled my duty to God in
all good conscience to this day.”*

***These simple words create a firestorm from the
Jews. Read Ch 23 for next week***

Next week

- *Read **Acts 23** and come ready to discuss it*
- *Pray for your own discipline to follow God's lead and Spirit in 2022*
- *Pray for our Church, Pastors, and leaders*
- *Pray for our Country, Counties, and Leaders*
- *Pray for each other*
- *My prayer for each of you is to find Hope and Peace in 2022 and not be fearful of God's plan*