

Acts 22

Acts 22.1-11

V1 – Very similar to the speech of Stephen – Notice *Acts 7.2* – very interesting

-**Describe the circumstances:** In chains, surrounded by soldiers, before a mob

V2 – Paul must have been a genius – He knew just how to address an audience

V3 – Still, he does not insult the Jews! - He was zealous for God – "*just as you are*"

-**Was Paul "just" a Pharisee?** He called himself a "*Hebrew of Hebrews*" (*Phil. 2.5*)

-**Who had been Paul's teacher?** Gamaliel – Paul again calms down the Jews, since Gamaliel was one of their heroes

-**Why did Paul say that he sat "at the feet" of Gamaliel?** Because in First Century Judaism, the student always sat lower than the teacher

V4 – Notice the use of "*the way*" again (see *John 14.6*)

V5 – *Acts 9.1-2* – **What had Paul done?** He had gotten permission to persecute Christians

V6-11 – **Where was this story first told?** *Acts 9*

V10 – Notice that he was not saved yet, but he had to meet Ananias and learn what he needed to do to be forgiven and to receive salvation

Acts 22.12-21

V12 – Notice the emphasis on Ananias the Jew – again to calm the audience down

V13 – Notice: "*Brother Saul*" – more tact, "brother" because they were both Jews, not because Paul was already a brother in Christ

V14 – God of our fathers = divine appointment

-**3 things for Paul:**

1. To know God's will
2. To see the Righteous One
3. To hear the utterance....

V15 – Notice that Paul did not say "Gentiles," only "all men"

V16 – More quotes from Ananias, to continue to calm down the Jews

-No delay – be baptized immediately

-Several major denominations of our day will save up their "saved" people to be baptized on one day a month (or a quarter)

-Notice that baptism came before the forgiveness of sins

V17 – Notice that he mentioned praying in the temple – **Why?** To show that a person could still pray

in the temple (it was not an accursed piece of ground in the eyes of God)
-This was after Paul had spent 3 years in Arabia (See *Gal. 1.18*)

V 18 – **Why did God warn Paul to get out of Jerusalem?** Because the Jews there considered him a traitor and would not accept his testimony

V 19 – **Why did Paul mention to the crowd that he had persecuted and imprisoned Christians before his conversion?** To show his honesty and integrity
-In other words, he was an "authentic" man

V 20 – Paul held the clothes of the men who stoned Stephen!
-Think of the impact that should have made on the listeners

V 21 – God sent him to the Gentiles – the end of the speech!
-**What word broke up the speech at Athens?** "*Resurrection*" (*Acts 17.31-32*)
-Here it was the word "*Gentiles*" – They hated the Gentiles that much!

Acts 22.22-30

V 22 – Fanatics! **Does such hatred still exist in the world today?**
-**How do we know that these Jews were really mad?** They said that Paul should be killed on the spot

V 23 – **How did they demonstrate their feelings of hatred for Paul?** They were shouting, throwing off coats and robes, throwing dust into the air (*2 Sam. 16.13*)
-It sounds like a bullfight!

V 24 – **What did the Roman commander order?** That Paul be taken back to the barracks and "*examined by scourging*"
-This was totally illogical – Like the Salem witch trials: Women were put under water – if they did not survive, then they must have been witches

V 25 – **What did Paul just "mention" before he was to be beaten?** That he was a Roman citizen and had not received a trial
-**Where else did Paul use this?** At Philippi (*Acts 16.37*)
-**What lesson can we learn from Paul's technique here?** We can use the civil law when it will support the Lord's work
-There is no value to suffering just for the sake of suffering

V 26 – **What did this Roman commander do?** Went to his commander and relayed the facts about Paul (a Roman citizen about to be beaten without a trial)

V 27 – **What did the second commander do?** Ascertained the facts from Paul

V 28 – Three ways to get Roman citizenship:
1. Buying it – very expensive (as with this second commander – he had bought citizenship with a large amount of money)
2. Being born into it (Tarsus was a "free city," not a Roman colony, so this did not apply to Paul)

3. Having it conferred on a person for service to the Roman Empire – possibly Paul's father had done something remarkable for the Empire, and thus Paul was born into citizenship
-Actually, we are not told how Paul obtained his Roman citizenship, but probably it was the third way

V 29 – **What was the reaction of the soldiers who were about to beat Paul?** They immediately got away from him

-Why was the commander in danger from his superiors? Paul had already been put into chains

V 30 – There would be a meeting the next day of the Sanhedrin, the governing body of the Jewish religion

-How many men were in the Sanhedrin? 70 under Moses, 71 including the high priest

-3 groups of people in the Sanhedrin:

-Chief Priests

-Scribes and Pharisees

-the Elders

-Did they have the power to execute people? No, only with the approval of the Roman government

-Only exception: If a Gentile went into the temple

-Why did the Roman commander schedule a meeting the next day? To determine what all the commotion was about concerning Paul

Revised 2012-12-04