

*spread the*  
**WORD**  
The Book of Acts

**Sharing Your Story**

**Acts 21:37-22:29**

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# Sharing Your Story

# Sharing Your Story

**Acts 21:37 – 22:22** As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek? 38 Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?” 39 Paul replied, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.” -

# Sharing Your Story

40 And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying: 22:1 “Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.” 2 And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said: -

# Sharing Your Story

3 “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. 4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, 5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished. -

# Sharing Your Story

6 “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. 7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ 8 And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ 9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.

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# Sharing Your Story

10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.' 11 And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus. 12 "And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. -

# Sharing Your Story

14 And he said, The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; 15 for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.' 17 "When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance -



# Sharing Your Story

18 and saw him saying to me, Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.' 19 And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. 20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.' 21 And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'" -

# Sharing Your Story

22 Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.” (ESV)

# Sharing Your Story

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

I. Be culturally relevant.

*1 “Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.” 2 And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

I. Be culturally relevant.

- *1 Peter 3:15 but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,*
- *1 Corinthians 9:22 ...I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

II. Acknowledge our life before Christ.

*3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. 4 I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, 5 as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, -*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

II. Acknowledge our life before Christ.

*and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

II. Acknowledge our life before Christ.

- *Ephesians 2:12-13 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.*



# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

II. Acknowledge our life before Christ.

- *Romans 5:8-10 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

III. Proclaim how we came to Christ.

A. Through God's conviction of sin.

*6 "As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me.*

*7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?'*

- *Matthew 3:8 Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

III. Proclaim how we came to Christ.

A. Through God's conviction of sin.

- *Luke 5:32 I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.”*
- *2 Corinthians 7:10 For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

III. Proclaim how we came to Christ.

A. Through God's conviction of sin.

- *Romans 2:4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

III. Proclaim how we came to Christ.

A. Through God's conviction of sin.

- *2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

III. Proclaim how we came to Christ.

B. Through saving faith in Christ.

*8 And I answered, 'Who are you, Lord?' And he said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' 9 Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

III. Proclaim how we came to Christ.

B. Through saving faith in Christ.

- *Acts 16:31 And they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*
- *Romans 10:9 because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

III. Proclaim how we came to Christ.

B. Through saving faith in Christ.

- *Matthew 10:32-33 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.*



# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

IV. Describe our new life in Christ.

A. A new willingness to follow Christ.

*10 And I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.'*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

IV. Describe our new life in Christ.

B. A new humility.

*11 And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

IV. Describe our new life in Christ.

C. A new beginning.

*12 “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, 13 came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him.”*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

IV. Describe our new life in Christ.

D. A new purpose.

*14 And he said, The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; 15 for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

IV. Describe our new life in Christ.

E. A new obedience.

*16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

IV. Describe our new life in Christ.

F. A new direction.

*17 “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance 18 and saw him saying to me, Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly...*

*21 And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

V. Be prepared for adverse responses.

A. Some may remember our past life and hold it against us.

*18 ...because they will not accept your testimony about me. 19 And I said, 'Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. 20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.'*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

V. Be prepared for adverse responses.

B. Some may flat out reject our message.

*22 Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, "Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live." 23 And as they were shouting and throwing off their cloaks and flinging dust into the air,*



# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

V. Be prepared for adverse responses.

C. Some may want to force legal action against us.

*24 the tribune ordered him to be brought into the barracks, saying that he should be examined by flogging, to find out why they were shouting against him like this.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

V. Be prepared for adverse responses.

D. Some may want to do us harm.

*25 But when they had stretched him out for the whips,*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

VI. Rest in God's provision and care.

*...Paul said to the centurion who was standing by, "Is it lawful for you to flog a man who is a Roman citizen and uncondemned?" 26 When the centurion heard this, he went to the tribune and said to him, "What are you about to do? For this man is a Roman citizen." 27 So the tribune came and said to him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" And he said, "Yes." -*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

VI. Rest in God's provision and care.

*28 The tribune answered, "I bought this citizenship for a large sum." Paul said, "But I am a citizen by birth." 29 So those who were about to examine him withdrew from him immediately, and the tribune also was afraid, for he realized that Paul was a Roman citizen and that he had bound him.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

VI. Rest in God's provision and care.

- *Luke 12:11-12 And when they bring you before the synagogues and the rulers and the authorities, do not be anxious about how you should defend yourself or what you should say, 12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.*

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story we need to:

VI. Rest in God's provision and care.

- *Matthew 10:19-20* When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.  
*20* For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

# Sharing Your Story

# Sharing Your Story

As we share our story with others:

We need to be culturally relevant.

We need to acknowledge our life before Christ.

We need to proclaim how we came to Christ .

We need to describe our new life in Christ.

We need to be prepared to face adverse responses.

We need to rest in God's provision and care.



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