

Courageous Conviction (Part 6): The Power of your Story- Acts 26:1-32
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

Which one of us doesn't love a good story? Heroes, villains, conflict, sacrifice, victory over insurmountable odds. No matter what genre you enjoy, it all boils down to the same stuff. Whether it's sci-fi with laser cannons, spaceships, aliens, transporters, or fantasy with wizards, dragons, magic, orcs, goblins, elves, dwarves. Maybe it's action/adventure like a good spy movie with spy gadgets, undercover work, and car chases that may or may not contain missiles and explosions. Maybe it's a mystery that leaves you to the last possible minute or page trying to figure who (Col. Mustard), what (wrench), where (the library), when, and how. This is nothing new to the human experience. Since the beginning, we have always been drawn to stories.

This morning, we pick up the story of the Apostle Paul as he stands before the Roman governor, Festus, and King Agrippa. Paul has been in prison in Caesarea for over two years though he's been proven innocent time and again.

Imagine the scene. The room is filled with important leaders of Caesarea. Enter Festus, Agrippa. The most powerful men in all the region. Then escorted in is an older man. Possibly balding. More than likely hobbling or limping, hunched over possibly, from the numerous beatings he has endured up until now. Festus gives the prisoner permission to speak. The prisoner, opening his mouth, begins telling a story for the ages. One that will outlast thousands if not millions of other stories.

We then read the last recorded account of Paul and how the Lord Jesus transformed him from a rule-following, raging bordering on insanity against the early followers of Jesus to one of the most sold-out followers of Jesus this world has ever seen. There is not a note of pride in his story. Not a note of self-will. Jesus breaks into his life, changes him from the inside out, and Paul responds in repentance and unarguable sold-out obedience.

There are three principle takeaways from Paul's story here that are helpful to see. He tailors his story to fit his audience. He points his story to Jesus. And lastly, he invites his hearers into His story. We can do the same thing when God gives us opportunities to share our story. It may not be as flashy as some, but it's just as miraculous and God can use it to point others to himself.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Daniel 12	Ezra 1	Ezra 2	Ezra 3	Ezra 4	Ezra 5	Ezra 6

Reading from this past week: Acts 26:1-32

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Acts 27:1-28:10

Family Worship

Song - *The Gospel*

<https://youtu.be/uCibVFxaJW8>

Gospel Project

Unit: The People Prepare

Story: The People Promised to be Faithful

Big Picture Question: How should we feel when we sin?

Answer: When we sin, we should feel sorry that we have disobeyed God and want to turn from our sin because we love Him.

Scripture: Nehemiah 9-10

New City Catechism

Question #8: What is the Law of God stated in the 10 Commandments?

Answer: You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Honor your father and your mother. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not give false testimony. You shall not covet.

Verse: Exodus 20:3

Scripture

Acts 26:1-32

- How does Paul tell his faith story? What were the most important points in his story?
- Why can sharing the story of how a person came to faith in Jesus be a powerful way to witness to a person who does not know Christ?
- How would you tell the story of your conversion to Jesus? Who could benefit from hearing your faith story?
- Consider writing out your faith story using this outline.

1. My life and attitudes before meeting Jesus
2. How I came to Christ
3. Ways that a relationship with Jesus has changed my life

Prayer

*Pray for that we would share our story faithfully to those who need to hear the Gospel.

*Pray for the workers with Send Relief serving in Turkey and Syria.