

Study Guide for Nov. 5th, 2006: Speak Up for Jesus. Acts 21:37 – 22:22

Introduction: Tell of a person you observed who spoke up for Jesus in a difficult place. What was the reaction by those who heard? What impact did the experience have on you?

Background: With this section we begin the account of Paul's imprisonment, trials, and subsequent journey to Rome. This material will conclude the book of Acts. This is more than an exciting story. Luke is presenting Paul as a model witness and showing how Judaism, rightly understood, culminates in faith in Jesus as the promised Messiah.

I. Permission to speak is granted: (Acts 21:37-40)

- A. A violent mob is trying to kill Paul b/c they feel he has desecrated the temple. Roman soldiers are taking him into protective custody when Paul asks the commander for permission to speak. Who does the commander think Paul is?
- B. How does Paul respond to the commander's question?
- C. Describe the crowd's condition now (vs. 40) as compared to earlier (vs. 30, 35).
- D. Reflect on and apply I Pet. 3:15-16 to Paul's situation and ones you face.

II. Personal story of grace is retold: (Acts 22:1-22)

A. Identify with your audience: (Acts 22:1-5)

- 1) Describe the opening of Paul's defense (vs. 1-5). What is he trying to prove?
- 2) What group of non-Christians can you most readily identify with?

B. Describe your encounter with Christ: (Acts 22:6-11)

- 1) Supply the details of Paul Damascus road experience.
When does it happen? How does he describe it? How does he respond?
- 2) Supply the details of your encounter with the living Christ.
When did it happen? How would you describe it? How did you respond?

C. Confirmation by others: (Acts 22:12-16)

- 1) Who does God use to confirm Paul's experience? What does he add?
- 2) How has God confirmed his will for you through others?

D. Commission and Conflict: (Acts 22:17-22)

- 1) Where does Paul have his calling clarified? What does God reveal to Paul?
- 2) How has your calling to service been clarified? What has God revealed?