

# Paul Preaches To a Bloodthirsty Mob

Acts 22:1-21

March 14, 2021

INTRO—From Paul’s arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:27-36) and subsequent trials in Caesarea and on to Rome, the next seven chapters fill one quarter of the book of Acts till the end in 28:31.

Paul’s defense Gk. *apologia* an explanation and testimony (1-2)

## 1. My life before meeting Jesus as my Savior (3-5)

- **Ethnic** pride “*I am a Jew*” (also 21:39)
- **Fanaticism** *against* Jesus (Gal. 1:13-14; Phil. 3:5-6)

## 2. When and how I met Jesus as my Savior (6-16)

### a. **Showdown** at high noon

- The light was “*brighter than the sun*” (26:13)
- Voice of the very much **alive** “*Jesus of Nazareth*”

### b. Ananias, a **Jewish** follower of Christ (9:10)

- He was a devout observer of the law, highly respected
- Amazing word of greeting “**Brother** Saul”
- Paul’s **commission** from “*the God of our fathers*”
- “*The Righteous One*” refers to Christ (3:14; Jer. 23:5-6)
- A **witness** tells what they have “*seen and heard*”
- “*What are you waiting for?*” (Rom. 10:9-13)

## 3. Life since meeting Jesus as my Savior (17-21)

- Going to the temple as a place of prayer (3:1)
- Paul’s **hesitancy** to leave Jerusalem the first time
- God’s plan sends a man to the **Gentiles**

## *On Your Own* (better with others)

1. Suggest three reasons why Luke devoted so many chapters to retelling the story of Paul’s arrest, trials and defense of the faith
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
2. Do you think “bloodthirsty” is too harsh a term for the reaction in Jerusalem to Paul? Why or why not? (see also Luke 23:18)
3. What capital crime (punishable by death) under Jewish law was Jesus, Stephen and Paul charged with?

Jesus (John 5:18; 8:58-59; 10:33; 19:7)

Stephen (Acts 6:13-14) and Paul (Acts 21:28)
4. READ Acts 9:15-16; 13:46-48; 21:19. What was Paul’s special assignment from God? (See also Gal. 2:7-8)
5. What people do you think would especially relate to your testimony? Hint: maybe people from a similar background
6. If you have never written out your personal testimony, now would be a good time ☺ Then, pray about who to tell it to.