

LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

Acts Series

These questions are for the **June 27, 2021** sermon, "Courage for every circumstance." Please read the sermon passage (Acts 26:19-31) together out loud.

Sermon Outline

1. When people's expectations and rules are different than God's, obey God. (19-23)
 - a. Paul had seen a heavenly vision and was now commissioned by Jesus to bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the certainty of his identity as Messiah.
 - b. But Paul was obedient "to the heavenly vision." He continually proclaimed Jesus.
 - c. Repentance is change, a complete reversal of direction.
2. Don't let people's responses to the gospel message hinder your boldness. (24-29)
 - a. Festus (non-religious) calls Paul insane and immediately rejects his message about Jesus.
 - b. Agrippa (religious) says that he needs more time to consider Paul's words.
 - i. Both of them rejected Jesus on different grounds.
 - ii. Both of them heard the message that Paul had been commissioned to deliver.
 - c. Do all the people in your life hear the message God has commissioned you to deliver?
 - d. Paul invites each one to become just like him . . .
 - i. Obedient to Christ
 - ii. Confident in Christ
 - iii. Bold for Christ.
 - iv. In other words, he calls for a definite decision regarding Jesus Christ.

Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Paul is obedient to proclaim that Jesus is the Messiah. He declares (20), testifies (22), proclaims (23) that Jesus is the Savior for Jews (20) and the whole world (20-23), both small and great (22). Think about one person that God is placing in your life (neighbor, co-worker or friend). What is the best verbal on-ramp to testify to them about Jesus?
2. Based on #1, above: Paul waited for a couple years to have this opportunity, and then waited for both Festus and Agrippa to invite him to speak (26:1). Have you ever asked for permission to speak? How would your neighbor/co-worker/friend respond if you said, "I have something really important to say to you, and I want you to hear me clearly." Do you think they would come over to your house or meet you for coffee to listen? Why or why not?
3. Based on #2, above: We are not here to win an argument, but to witness about Jesus Christ. Many people will reject Jesus. They may think you are crazy, or delay making a decision. But they must hear and be invited to trust him. How do you react/respond when people reject Jesus? Do you get defensive? Hurt? Afraid? What can you do with these reactions?
4. Based on #2, above: There are some people that we are more emotionally invested in than others. We want our children, spouse, parents and friends to receive Jesus. Sometimes we try harder verbally, becoming annoying to them. How do we distinguish between boldness and "being annoying"? How can we make certain our efforts are not merely in the flesh, but led by the Spirit? What role does prayer play? Who can we pray for today?