

Sermon Series:
“Giving Your Life Away”
A Story to Tell

Dec. 6, 2009
Acts 26



Time in the Word

Getting the flow of the story: Acts 23-25

The apostle Paul spent quite a bit of time “under arrest”. The Jewish authorities imprisoned him, and then the Romans had him. Read these 3 chapters just to get a sense of how often Paul got to share his story with some high level Roman rulers.

Read and Answer: Acts 26

1. In Paul’s words: Who I used to be (26:1-11)
 - a. As you look at the first 3 verses, what can you learn about how one addresses someone before sharing their “story”?
 - b. As Paul tells about his “early” days, what kind of man was he? Why is this foundation important for the apostle to establish?
 - c. In verse 8, he seems to say that the debate that is unsettled between himself and the Jewish leaders centers on one issue—what is it? Why is this issue so important?
 - d. Reading verses 9-11, how did Paul live out his early opposition to the one known as “Jesus of Nazareth”? How does this add power to his later conversion to belief in Jesus as the Messiah?
2. How it all changed (12-18)
 - a. Describe what happened to Saul on the road to Damascus at noon. Most of us don’t fall down after being surrounded by incredible light, but often we do encounter the power of God in amazing ways. Do you have a story of a time when God got your attention in a great way?
 - b. What exactly did Jesus say to Saul? Focus on verse 18. In what ways will Saul be used by God? What do you think is going through King Agrippa’s mind as he listens to this?
3. What has happened since (19-31)
 - a. So what does Paul say he has been doing since that great day on the road to Damascus?
 - b. How does Agrippa respond? Does this give you any encouragement—even the apostle Paul wasn’t received well all the time!!



Time for the Heart

Take a moment and meditate on 1 Peter 3:15—“but in you hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” Do you know how to tell your “story”? Practice it!! Pretend

someone asks you, “aren’t you a Christian? What does that mean?” Spend a little small group time sharing your “story”.