

“HE BEGGED TO SPEAK!”

Following Paul’s Desire to Tell What Jesus has Done, Acts 21:39

Acts 22:1-16 contains the personal testimony of the apostle Paul spoken by him as a defense before the Jews. Though God saves people through many different circumstances, Paul’s testimony provides a great example for us in speaking about what He has done for us through the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As you read it, notice that he tells what he was like before God saved him (verses 1-5), he speaks of some of the circumstances surrounding the way in which Jesus Christ saved him (verses 6-11), and he tells what has changed and what his purposes are now that he has been saved (verses 12-16). It loosely follows a “before, during, after” outline. This is a good way to speak of our own salvation as well (Read 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and notice the same three elements).

At Crossway we love stories of redemption, and your story speaks of the goodness and greatness of Jesus. The body would be encouraged by your 3-5 minute testimony of how God saved you. The questions inside this handout serve as a template for writing your testimony. Answer 2 or 3 questions from each section in a “life story” format. Bring your answers together to write a paragraph for each section. In the end, after you bring it all together in each section with some time, thought, and prayer it should read just like you are telling a story...

Your story of God’s grace!

Old Life (Without Jesus)

BEFORE

1. What were you like before Jesus saved you?
2. What was your life like before Jesus, and what did you believe about the world and your existence in it?
3. What were your major idols – in what/whom did you place your hope?
4. When and how did you recognize your need for Jesus (what was the turning point)?
5. Overall, what was the problem? Why did you need salvation (Choose a verse/short Bible passage to support your explanation).

My Notes and Answers:

The Gospel (The Story of Jesus)

DURING

1. Who is Jesus, and what is the gospel? (Choose a verse/short passage of scripture to support your explanation).
2. What did God do through Christ to solve your problem? (Choose a verse/short Bible passage to support your explanation).
3. Why do you believe in the gospel of Jesus?
4. How would you explain what the gospel has accomplished in your heart and life?
5. What did God do to bring you to the point where you were willing to surrender your life?

My Notes and Answers:

New Life (With Jesus)

AFTER

1. How has Jesus transformed your life, overcome your sin, and confronted your idols?
2. What are you like now that Jesus has saved you? What has changed?
3. What benefits have you received through Christ in the gospel (Choose a verse/short Bible passage to support your explanation)?
4. How is the gospel currently at work in you (how is God sanctifying you?)
5. What is at stake for those who don't believe in Jesus, and why should they believe in Him?

My Notes and Answers:

Now, prayerfully bring it all together to share your gospel story!