

of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. ⁴ I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, ⁵ as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.

1. Why do you think Paul was so insistent that he be able to speak to the people?
2. What do you think he hoped to accomplish?
3. Why do you think Paul thought they would listen to him?
4. How many things can you find here that speak to what Paul has in common with them?
5. What is Paul trying to establish with the crowd in this first part of his speech?
 - A. Are there signs that it is working?
6. Do you find it curious that Paul describes the crowd as acting out of zeal for God? (vs. 3)
7. Is it possible to show zeal for God but be working against him in doing so? (See Romans 10:1-2)
 - A. What causes this?
 - B. What is the result of this?
 - C. How do we avoid it?

KTFK: act with / zeal for / be sure / to. / God in / what we / everything we / do is / do, but / wants us / Let us / let us / what he

Song: “Be Thou My Vision”

Prayer: “Lord God, we want to live for you with zeal. We want to do the kinds of things that glorify you and defend you and your word. But Lord, help us to discern clearly what your will is that we might not, as these Jews did, act with zeal in ways that are diametrically opposed to your will. Let us not be ignorant, Lord. Give us true sight through your Word and Spirit. Amen.”

Wednesday, November 17

⁶ “As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. ⁷ And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ ⁸ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ ⁹ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. ¹⁰ And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ ¹¹ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.

¹² “And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, ¹³ came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. ¹⁴ And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; ¹⁵ for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. ¹⁶ And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’

1. Here we see Paul essentially giving his testimony.
 - A. What does it mean to give your testimony?
 - B. Have you ever given yours?
 - C. What is your testimony?
2. The word “appointed” is used in verses 10 and 14. What does that word refer to?

A. In what way was Paul “appointed” to do certain things and to know the will of God?

3. Do you think you were also “appointed” to know the will of God – to believe in him?
 - A. How is this understanding of coming to faith different than one in which we essentially appoint ourselves?
 - i. Does being appointed rather than appointing ourselves make us more or less humble?
 - ii. Does it cause us to give God more glory or less?
 - iii. Does it lead to a life of more thankfulness or less?
 - iv. Does it create greater assurance of salvation or less?
 - v. Does it help us see others with more understanding or less?

KTFK: before the / this grace / him and / and in / throne. / appointed me / that I / I know / to know / be known, / God himself / shall stand

Song: “How Vast the Benefits Divine”

Prayer: “Lord God, truly there is nothing in me except your image that could cause you to reach out to me in forgiveness and grace. Truly, I am a rebel and hater of you, O God. I praise you for reaching to me in my sin and death and bringing me into a knowledge of you and of the truth. Help me to live the rest of my days in the power, humility, joy, and certainty of your electing love. Amen.”

Thursday, November 18

¹⁷ “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance ¹⁸ and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ ¹⁹ And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’ ²¹ And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”
²² Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.”

1. What was so unique about Paul that Jesus warned that the Jews in Jerusalem would not accept Paul’s testimony about him?
 - A. Why couldn’t Paul simply join the church in Jerusalem which James and the others were members of?
2. What point do you think Paul is trying to make to the Lord in verses 19-20?
 - A. Does it seem as though Paul thinks what the Jews in Jerusalem know about him would make it easier or harder for them to accept his testimony?
 - B. Why is he wrong about that?
3. How might the fact that Paul had been “one of them” in terms of his previous persecution of believers make the Jews here in Jerusalem especially angry?
 - A. Why did Paul’s testimony threaten them so?
4. In what way is the zeal of these Jews which Paul refers to in verse 3 connected to pride?
 - A. How can we be sure that pride does not fuel our zeal?

KTFK: zeal though / be free. / same as / and from / we feel / so let / this sin / to be, / Pride is / not the / more than / us think / it pretends

Song: “Speak, O Lord”

Prayer: “Lord, how strange it seems that these people who were so much like Paul would be so opposed to his message. The very people who should have been the most

moved by his conversion are the most offended by it. Help us not to live in the kind of pride that blinds the eyes to what is going on right in front of us. Amen.”

Friday, November 19

¹⁷ “When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ ¹⁹ And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. ²⁰ And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’ ²¹ And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”
²² Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.”

1. What word do you think it was that set them off again?
2. What did they think about the Gentiles?
3. Why would Paul’s being sent to the Gentiles have been especially infuriating to them?
4. How is the level of their disdain for the Gentiles related to the level of their pride as Jews?
5. Is there any danger of our having some of these feelings as believers who have grown up in the church?
6. Why do both of these things (their disdain for others and their pride in themselves) need to be destroyed by the gospel? A. How does the gospel do this?
7. Does the level of the crowd’s anger surprise you?
A. On what grounds do you think they believed he should actually be killed?
8. What scene does this one remind you of? (see Matthew 26:65-68)
A. How should Paul interpret that fact?

KTFK: sure the / the lost / it is / not yet / us. / God has / If we / we are / around us, / love of / think that / better than / truly found

Song: “And, Can It Be?”

Prayer: “Help us never to look at those outside the faith as somehow less worthy than us of your infinite mercy and grace. May the true and beautiful gospel be that which forms every aspect of our lives. Amen.”

Saturday, November 20

Read the entire passage again and review the key thoughts from each day. Which did you find most important for you this week?

Nov 15 - When things / are at / a fever / pitch be / sure to / keep your / head, that / you might / not act / foolishly but / work for / truth instead.
Nov 16 - Let us / act with / zeal for / God in / everything we / do, but / let us / be sure / what we / do is / what he / wants us / to.
Nov 17 - God himself / appointed me / to know / him and / be known, / and in / this grace / I know / that I / shall stand / before the / throne.
Nov 18 - Pride is / not the / same as / zeal though / it pretends / to be, / so let / us think / more than / we feel / and from / this sin / be free.
Nov 19 - If we / think that / we are / better than / the lost / around us, / it is / sure the / love of / God has / not yet / truly found / us.

Family Worship 2021

November 15-20

Acts 21:37 – 22:22

Kids and Parents: See if you can unscramble the daily KTFK - Key Thought for Kids (Answers on back page)

Monday, November 15

³⁷ As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek? ³⁸ Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?”

1. Why do you think the tribune would assume that Paul was this Egyptian revolutionary he refers to?
2. What does it tell us...
 - A. About the level of mayhem that Paul’s presence had created?
 - B. About how easy it is for people in situations like this to make false assumptions?
 - i. Why is this fact especially dangerous in highly emotional and violent situations like this one?
3. To what degree do you believe keeping your head in these kinds of situations is central to what it means to be a godly influence in them?
 - A. In what way is this needed for all those involved, whether members of the crowd, the accused himself, or those like the tribune who are responsible to make sure that the right thing is done?
4. Are there situations today where people tend to act in these kinds of ways?
 - A. What should Christians seek to do in these situations?

KTFK: pitch be / keep your / When things / truth instead. / are at / not act / work for / a fever / you might / head, that / sure to / foolishly but

Song: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Prayer: “Lord God, it seems that situations like this continue to increase in the world around us – situations where crowds are brought to a fever pitch about one issue or another. Help us as your children – as people who represent your heart and mind – to keep a level head, and to seek out and speak for truth, and truth alone. Amen.”

Tuesday, November 16

³⁷ As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek? ³⁸ Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?” ³⁹ Paul replied, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.” ⁴⁰ And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:

²² “Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”
² And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:
³ “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet