

Paul's Defense and Witness

Sermon Notes for January 26, 2014, by Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri

Intro - Whole Lotta Twinning Goin' On! Standing, Sitting, Jewish Rulers, Witness, Etc.

1. No Two Good Deeds Go Unpunished - The Best Laid Plans - 21:15-27
Holy War Context

2. Lies, Half-Lies and Damned Lies - Acts 21:28-31a
The [horrible] impact of a failure of integrity" - Alistair Begg

3. Who Are the Good Guys? Acts 21:31b-39
The Romans as Protectors
Egypt and Jerusalem
Paul and Jesus - Came to His Own

4. The Defense and Witness of a Gracious Law-Keeping Trophy of Grace - Hallelujah!! - 21:40-22:21
Who He Was - vv. 3

What He Did - vv. 4,5

What Happened to Him - vv. 6-16

What He Is Doing - vv. 17-21

5. The Main Deal - The Jew-Gentile Distinction Is Fading Away
Saul/Paul
Greek and Roman Bona Fides
Speaks Greek and Hebrew

6. Unity in the Unifier, Disunity Everywhere Else
Riots, Tumult and Confusion in Ephesus and Jerusalem

7. No Good Deed Is Sown in Vain - The Rest of the Story - 22:22ff
To Governor, King, Rome and the Household of Caesar!!!

Discussion Questions for Community Groups

1. Can you identify with the Jews and their mistaken assumptions about Paul?
2. Someone once said that we are tempted to believe lies especially when they support our prejudices.
Discuss the implications of this for partisan politics and for you personally and people you dislike.
3. Should we pray and commit ourselves as a group to avoid gossip, slander and speculation like the plague?
4. There is a great deal of discussion these days about the Common Good. How would this text impact this discussion?
5. Ananias asked Paul "Why are you waiting?" Are there areas of following Jesus that you are waiting to do?
6. Have you been an Ananias to someone in the past? Could you look for an opportunity to do so in the future.
7. Discuss the relationship of the Beatitudes and Paul's speech.

Sermon Notes for Children from Acts 21 and 22

1. To finish their vow, Paul's men would shave their _____.
_____..
2. We are not to follow a _____ to do violence.
3. We should not listen to _____.
4. We should focus on _____.
5. When we hear slander others, we should _____ it.
6. Paul spoke _____ to the commander.
7. Paul spoke _____ to the crowd.
8. Paul began his defense like _____.
9. Paul told the Jews that he was a _____.
10. If we want someone to hear us, we should _____ them.
11. What Paul's _____ & _____ taught him was very important when he grew up.
12. The Romans thought Paul was from _____.
13. Christians love God's _____.
14. A _____ happened around Paul in Ephesus.
15. God has a strange way of making things work _____.
16. We can _____ Him in everything to guard and lead us.



Paul went to the Street called Straight in Damascus where his eyes were healed by a disciple called Ananias. Paul then began to preach the gospel.