

4. Read Acts 24:22-27; 25:1-12; 26:24-32. Although his life is on the line, Paul keeps focused on sharing the gospel message of salvation. What often distracts you from seeking opportunities to share the gospel in daily life.

5. Write out a short version of your faith story following the pattern illustrated by Paul. (See the instructions in point 3 of the sermon.)

Missional Application

God calls us to be concerned more about others' salvation than about our own situation.

Christ Connection

Paul was less concerned about his receiving favor from earthly kings and more concerned about their receiving salvation through Jesus Christ. His testimony in the face of false accusations, unjust sentencing, and possible torture and death is a shining example of confidence in the power of the gospel to save.

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

God's Prisoners (Part 2)

"What to Do When You Have an Opportunity to Share the Gospel"
Acts 24:22-27; 25:1-12; 26:24-32

"Sharing the gospel" = _____ someone to Jesus and what he has done for us.

Why share the gospel?

- C_____: Jesus commissions all of us to share the gospel. (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 10:2; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Colossians 4:3-6; 1 Peter 3:15)
- L_____: People need to know Jesus.
- R_____: People are thinking agents and more than a product of their cultural environment.
- D_____: Placing religious beliefs off limits for real and rigorous discussion sacrifices relational depth.
- D_____: To ban evangelism in the name of diversity doesn't empower racial and cultural minorities; it silences them.

"Is It Wrong to Try to Persuade Others to Change Their Beliefs?," Rebecca McLaughlin

What to Do When You Have an Opportunity to Share the Gospel

1. Stay _____, looking for opportunities.
Acts 24:22-24
2. Speak the _____ (don't "bait and switch").
Acts 24:25

3. Tell your faith story and the _____ of the gospel.

Acts 26:4-23

- Start with (1) your life _____ Christ, (2) how you came to know Christ, and (3) then your life after becoming a Christian.

If you became a Christian early in life, talk about a time in your life where your faith became very real to you.

- Weave in the _____ of salvation in Christ. Explain what Jesus came to do, his death, and his resurrection, and why it matters.
- Don't _____ anything. The Christian life is a life of struggle and living in God's grace.

4. Offer _____ and evidence.

Acts 26:24-27

5. Don't _____ to ask.

Acts 26:28-29,30-23

Personal Reflection & Small Group Questions

Please complete this study on your own, then bring it to your small group for discussion.

1. Looking back over your notes from this week's sermon, what particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?
2. Of the five reasons for sharing the gospel offered in the sermon, which one is most persuasive or motivating for you?

3. Jesus calls us to share the gospel of God's grace and love. Read the following passages and summarize what Jesus calls us to do in your own words.

Matthew 28: ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Luke 10: ² He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.

2 Corinthians 5: ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors.

Colossians 4: ³ And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. ⁴ Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should. ⁵ Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. ⁶ Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.

Family Discussion Questions

1. Why was Paul imprisoned?
2. Why is sharing our faith with others important?
3. What can we learn from the way Paul shared his faith?