

Acts: Paul’s Defence

 *Oct18*

**INTRODUCTION:**  We’ve entered one of two of the last major sections of Acts: Paul’s Witness in Jerusalem and Paul’s Witness in Rome. In this section Paul gives witness under trial.

**KEY POINT:** apologetics, testimony, witness, response

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Paul Accepted, Acts 21:17–26)

* What purpose does this section of Acts have?
* How is Paul’s witness in Jerusalem met with acceptance?
* What do we learn of God’s work abroad and in Jerusalem?
* How did Paul demonstrate a conciliatory principle?
* Other?

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (Acts 21:27–39, Paul Accused)

* What is the danger of rumours, supposing and bias?
* How did the unbelieving Jews act differently to the believing Jews and how did they break their own law?
* What do evidence in the passage do we see the unbelieving Jews were rejecting the witness of their Messiah?
* Other?

 **READ:** Acts 21:40–22:22

**QUESTIONS:**

1. *In v. 1 Paul says “hear my defence.” Defence in Greek is “apologia,” where we get apologetics from. This doesn’t mean apologizing for our faith but defending the faith. Apologetics is a key way to witness as the end of Acts makes clear.*
2. **1 Pet 3:15- What does this verse teach us about apologetics, whether sharing our faith or a point of our faith?**
3. V. 1- Why do you think there was a “hush” when Paul stepped up to speak to them from the barracks?

It would appear the unbelieving Jews were fine with proselytizing (Gentiles becoming Jews) but not with evangelism (making Gentiles Christians without first becoming Jews). Jew and Gentile was equal in their need of Christ and on identical terms.

1. **Vv. 1–2- In what language and in what tone did he speak to them? How is this helpful to remember for today?**
2. *This is the second time Paul has shared his testimony in Acts. He testifies (bears witness) to his experience of grace through faith.*
3. **What benefits does sharing our testimony have? Can someone share their testimony briefly?**
4. *Paul’s testimony here differs slightly (in emphasis) from that of Acts 9.* **How does he here stress how his faith in Christ is faithful to his Jewish roots?** (He was the [true Jew](https://www.markdalebaptist.org/drippings-from-the-honeycomb/jews-and-true-jews), like Jesus, like Stephen)**.Why?**
5. **How might we alter the points of emphasis in our testimony depending upon who we are speaking to?**
6. *He makes a series of points to relay this.* **In the corresponding verses, how does he convey each point?:**
	1. His Jewish upbringing (3a)
	2. His zeal for God (3b–5)
	3. Converted through Divine intervention (6–11)
	4. The ministry of Ananias (12–13)
	5. Revelation from the “righteous One” (14–16)
	6. Revelation in the Temple (that he supposedly defiled) (17–21)
7. **What effect did Paul hope his testimony would have?**
8. **V.22- What effect did it have and why[[1]](#footnote-1)?**
9. How is Paul’s defence similar to Jesus’?
10. *In Acts people either accept or reject the message of Jesus.* **What did the unbelieving Jews say? Were they accepting or rejecting their Messiah?**

**NEXT:** Oct 18- Acts 23:23–35, Paul Sent to Felix

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)