

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ACTS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 58b – Paul Speaks to the Crowd - [Acts 22:1-21](#) (Part 2)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

22“Brothers and fathers, listen now to my defense.”

²When they heard him speaking to them in Hebrew, they became even more quiet.

³“I am indeed a Jew,” he said, “born in Tarsus in Cilicia. But I was brought up in this city, and educated under Gamaliel, who taught me the Law of our Fathers with uncompromising exactness. And I was just as zealous *and fired up to obey* God as all of you are today.

⁴“I persecuted to death those who followed the Way of Jesus, arresting both men and women, and throwing them in jail.

⁵“The High Priest and the whole Council can tell you that this is true, because they are the ones who gave me letters of introduction to our Jewish leaders in Damascus. With those letters in hand, I was on my way to Damascus to arrest these followers of Jesus and bring them to Jerusalem in chains to receive their punishment.

⁶“About noon, as I was on my way and approaching Damascus, a most brilliant bolt of light from the sky suddenly blazed all around me.

⁷“I fell to the ground, and then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?’

⁸‘Who are you, Lord?’ I asked.

‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, the One you are persecuting,’ He answered.

⁹“The men with me also saw the light, and were frightened. But they didn’t understand what the One speaking was saying to me.

¹⁰‘What do You want me to do, Lord?’ I asked Him.

‘Get up and go into Damascus,’ the Lord replied. ‘There you will be told about all the things you have been appointed to do.’

¹¹“But since I had been blinded by the brilliance of the intense light, the men with me had to take me by the hand and lead me into Damascus.

¹²“Then a man by the name of Ananias came to see me. He was a devout man by the standards of the Jewish Law, and highly respected by all the Jews living there.

13“He came and stood *by my side* and said, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight! ’ And that very hour I could see again!

14“Then he said, ‘The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will, and see the Righteous One and receive understanding and instructions directly from His own mouth.

15‘You will be His witness to everyone, telling them what you have both seen and heard.

16‘And now, what are you waiting for?’ Ananias continued. ‘Get up and be baptized, and wash your sins away, calling on the name of the Lord.’

17“When I went back to Jerusalem, I was praying in the Temple one day when I had a vision.

18‘I saw Jesus, and He said to me, ‘Hurry! Get out of Jerusalem immediately! Be quick about it, because the people here will refuse to listen to what you have to tell them about Me!’

19‘But Lord,’ I said, ‘they know I went into every synagogue, imprisoning and beating those who believe in You.

20‘And when your martyr, Stephen, was killed *because he boldly spoke out for You*, I was standing there, agreeing that he should die. I was even guarding the clothes of those who were killing him!’

21‘Leave this place!’ He then said to me, ‘because I’m going to send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 58b – Paul Speaks to the Crowd - [Acts 22:1-21](#) (Part 2)

863. How did Paul address his audience? ([22:1](#))
864. What made the crowd quiet down? ([22:2](#))
865. What did Paul say about his rearing and training? ([22:3](#))
866. What was Paul like before his conversion? ([22:4-5](#))
867. How was Paul converted to Christ? ([22:6-9](#))
868. How did Paul learn about the nature of his future ministry? ([22:10-16](#))
869. Who was Ananias? ([22:12](#))
870. Why did Paul leave Jerusalem? ([22:17-18](#))

871. What did Paul's reply to the Lord show? ([22:19-20](#))

872. What did the Lord tell Paul to do? ([22:21](#))

873. Why do you think Paul told his own story instead of preaching a sermon?

Lesson 59 - Paul the Roman Citizen - [Acts 22:22-30](#)

Paul and the Roman Commander

²²The mob listened to Paul until he said he had been sent by the Lord to the Gentiles. But then they roared their disapproval, shouting, "Away with such a fellow! Kill him! He's not fit to live!"

²³As they continued screaming, they tore off their coats and threw dust into the air.

²⁴Whereupon the Roman commander ordered the captains to have Paul brought into the barracks. He also ordered that he be whipped, in order to force a confession from him. He wanted to find out why the mob was so violently against him.

²⁵But as he was being tied with leather thongs and stretched out for the whipping, Paul said to the captain standing by, "Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen before he's been found guilty?"

²⁶When the captain heard this, he went to the commander and said, "Do you realize what you're about to do? This man is a Roman citizen."

²⁷The commander then went to Paul and asked, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?"

"Yes," he replied.

²⁸"It took a large sum of money for me to get my citizenship," the commander said.

"But I was born a citizen," Paul responded.

²⁹As a result, those who were about to force a confession from him simply vanished. Even the commander was afraid, once he realized that he had taken Paul, a Roman citizen, and tied him up to be whipped.

Paul's Trial before the Council

³⁰However, he still wanted to know what charges the Jews were making against Paul. So the next day, he ordered the chief priests and their entire Council to assemble. Then he had Paul's chains taken off, and brought him in before them.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 59 - Paul the Roman Citizen - [Acts 22:22-30](#)

874. How did Paul anger the crowd? ([22:22](#))
875. How did the mob express their intense anger? ([22:23](#))
876. Why did the commander order that Paul be taken away and beaten? ([22:24](#))
877. Why was the commander confused by what was happening? ([22:24](#))
878. To what fact did Paul call the centurion's attention? ([22:25](#))
879. What was reported to the commander? ([22:26](#))
880. What did the commander ask Paul? ([22:27](#))
881. Why did the commander tell Paul that his citizenship had been bought? ([22:28](#))
882. How did Paul cap the commander's comment? ([22:28](#))
883. Why did the commander become alarmed? ([22:29](#))
884. Why did the commander order the Sanhedrin to assemble? ([22:30](#))
885. What people do we tend to exclude from the message of God's grace?