

Date: July 21, 2019

Text: Acts 21:27-22:23

Title: "I Was Blind, Now I See"

Big Idea: Jesus gives blind people sight so that they might show his light to others.

PART I: Acts 21:27-22:5. No Matter our Background, We Are All Blind.

- *What accusations do these Asian Jews bring against Paul? How does the crowd respond?*
- *Who helps Paul? How is this ironic?*
- *How does Paul seek to identify with the Jews?*
- *What good did Paul's Jewish pedigree do for him? (See Philippians 3:4-9)*

Take-Away: Realize that no matter how good you think your situation or background, you are blind and helpless apart from Jesus.

PART II: Acts 22:6-11. We Can't Truly See Until We See Jesus.

- *What is Paul's first question of Jesus (22:8)? How does Jesus respond?*
- *Share your own story of how you came to "see" Jesus as Lord for the first time.*
- *Paul calls Jesus "Lord" three times in these few verses. What does this signify about who Jesus is and how Paul's view of him has changed?*
- *Prior to this encounter on the Damascus Road, what did Paul think about Jesus? What do you think was the most surprising aspect of the experience for Paul?*

Take-Away: Look to Jesus with an open mind and heart, otherwise you will remain blind. And that's a really bad place to be.

PART III: Acts 22:12-16. God uses other people to help us see and believe in Jesus.

- *What is Paul's second question of Jesus (22:10)? How does Jesus respond?*
- *Why do you think God chooses to send Ananias to Paul?*
- *What does Ananias do for Paul?*
- *Tell the story of someone who, for you, led you to Jesus, taught you about Jesus, or took you under their wing even though it may have been inconvenient for them.*

Take-Away: God will use others to show Jesus to us, and he wants to use us to impact others. Are you actively seeking to be used of God in the lives of others to help them follow Jesus?

Part IV: Acts 22:17-23. When Jesus Gives Us Sight, He Sends Us On Mission

- How does Paul's vision compare with the vision received by Isaiah in Isaiah 6:1-13?
- What do you think the parallels between these two visions say about who Paul is? About who Jesus is?
- How does the Jewish crowd respond to Paul's mission to the Gentiles? Why?
- How should the Jewish people respond to a mission to the Gentiles (see Luke 2:29-32; Isaiah 42:6-7; 49:6; 60:1-3; John 8:12)
- Would you consider yourself to be more like Paul or more like these Jews in your attitude towards taking the good news to other people?

Take-Away: If you belong to Jesus, then you have been called to be on mission for him wherever you are. And like Paul, you will not always be accepted or heard when you go. But you must go anyway.