



THE LIFE OF
PAUL

FAMILY DEVOS

Paul's Message to the Mob

Scripture: Acts 21:37-22:29

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

For My Family:

Our last devotion ended with Paul being taken by the Romans from the midst of an angry mob. As they were taking him into custody, we learn that the Romans thought he was an Egyptian rebel who had been causing trouble in the city. Have you ever been mistaken for someone else? Paul told them that he was actually a Jew from Tarsus and asked to speak to the crowd who had just been trying to kill him.

We would call this message Paul shared with the Jews his testimony. When Christians talk about “sharing their testimony,” what they are talking about is simply sharing their Jesus story: when they decided to follow Jesus, and what their lives were like before and after that decision. All of us have unique testimonies about how and when we began to follow Jesus. Maybe it happened at VBS, on a retreat, or with your family at home. Whatever the case, though the specific details may be different, we all have this in common: before Jesus, our lives were one way, but when we began to follow Him our lives were changed.

Paul's life before believing in Jesus was very religious, as are many today, and as were many in the crowd he was speaking to. People often think that if they do good things, go to church, read their Bible, or even if they have godly parents, they are good with God. But *all* have sinned, and it is only through grace we are saved. We can't earn our salvation. Going to church and knowing our Bible is not enough. We have to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. Paul was born a Jew, grew up in Jewish tradition, was taught by a famous Jewish Rabbi (teacher), and was zealous (passionate) for God. This passion caused him to persecute followers of “the Way” (Christianity), arresting and even killing those who believed and spread the news that Jesus was alive and all could be forgiven through Him. But the Jesus Paul thought was dead had literally knocked him to the ground, blinded him, and spoke to him. Paul learned that he had been wrong, and immediately became a follower of Jesus.

What Paul was called to do after meeting Jesus on the road is the same thing we are called to do today: know God's will, see Jesus, and hear His voice, so that we can be His witnesses to everyone around us. How do we know, see, and hear God? Through His Word and the work of His Spirit all around the world! As we read and obey God's Word and are filled with His Spirit, He transforms our hearts and minds to live for Him and show the world around us that He is real. You may not have been knocked off a horse by a blinding light and thundering voice from heaven, but I promise you that what God has done in your life is just as amazing, and God wants you to share that with the world.

Questions for Young Children:

What was Paul's life like before and after meeting Jesus?

How do we know, hear, and see God today?

Did the crowd receive Paul's testimony? Why?

Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

Why didn't the Jews receive Paul's testimony?

Why can't you do anything to earn salvation?

How has your life changed since you decided to follow Jesus?