



SERIES: ACTS - WHEN THE WORLD TURNED UPSIDE DOWN
MESSAGE TITLE: "MISTAKEN IDENTITY"

SPEAKER: BRAD WILLIAMS
DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020

MESSAGE SUMMARY

BIBLICAL TEXT(S): Acts 22:1-16

In Acts chapter 22, Paul is accosted by a mob. Despite the chaos around him, Paul remains level-headed and even uses the situation to preach the good news of the Gospel. Paul experiences this peace because of where his identity is founded. This passage shows us that we can have this same stable identity if we know God's will, if we embrace our own story as a work of God, and if we embrace God's grace.

LEAN IN

These are icebreakers and warm ups, mostly just to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. When you think about this year, 2020, what is the first word that comes to mind?
2. Have you ever stayed calm in an extremely chaotic situation (or watched someone else do this? What happened?
3. What is one thing that you're looking forward to this week? What's one that you are dreading?
4. Last time we met, we talked about [whatever you talked about]. Has anyone had a chance to put that lesson into practice? Has it had an impact on your life in any way?

LOOK DOWN

These are questions about the Bible passage(s) and observations about what's been read. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How does Paul describe his past life to the crowd? How does he describe the crowd?
2. How does Paul demonstrate that he was originally against The Way?
3. What was Paul's turning point as described in this story? What happened to him on the road to Damascus?
4. Who came to see Paul? How does Paul describe him?
5. What did Ananias tell Paul to do?

cont.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help lead your group through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message. These can help your group understand and apply the teaching more profitably

CONTINUED:

LOOK OUT

These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How have you seen other Christians that you know (or know of), use their past to relate to non-believers in the present?
2. Paul was able to address this mob in a composed and logical way. Who do you know who has been able to remain calm in chaotic circumstances? What do you think allows them to retain their peace?
3. What does it look like in our lives when we follow our own wills? What are some examples of this? What does it look like to follow God's will? Who do you know that does this well?
4. How have you seen Christians use their own story to point people towards God? How effective is this compared to other methods of sharing about faith?
5. Pastor Brad said that grace means "Our identity is not in what we have done, can do, or will do. But in what Jesus has done, can do, and will do." How have you seen people trying to base their identity on what they've done? How have you seen people base their identity on what Jesus has done?

LOOK IN

These are questions that help you consider personal application. Spend about 15-20 minutes on three questions max.

1. How has (or how could) God use your own story to help you connect with others? What kinds of people in what particular circumstances might you relate to best?
2. How do you respond in the midst of chaos? How does this passage and sermon encourage or challenge you?
3. What has it looked like in your own life when you've chosen to follow your own will? What are ways that you've chosen to follow God's will?
4. What kinds of things has God done in your life that you could tell others about? How might these things help others to find faith in God?
5. Is your identity more based on what you do or what Jesus has done for you? Where do you most struggle to accept God's grace in your life?

cont.



CONTINUED:

LIVE IT OUT

These action steps help apply this week's message to day to day life. Choose one question and talk it over for 5-10 minutes.

1. Who might God be calling you to share your story with? What person or group of people might you best relate to? If a name or a group comes to mind, spend some time praying that God would give you an opportunity in the near future to be able to share your story with this person/group. Ask others to pray for you and this person/group as well.
2. Are you following your own will or God's? What's one thing you can do this week to choose to follow God's ways rather your own desires?
3. Grace can be a hard thing to accept and an equally hard thing to show to others. Where is God challenging you to be more gracious to yourself and/or to others this week?

Thanks to Ashleigh Rich and the Adult Discipleship Team for this week's notes and questions, as well as Charissa Burns (@charissaburnsstudio on Instagram) for her illustrated notes, which normally appear on the following page.

