



Sermon  
Discussion  
Guide

Sunday, October 5, 2025

# **ACTS – Faithful Witness**

## **Be Strong and Courageous**

### **Read/Reflect**

1. Read Acts 21:1-36. How do the Jewish Christians receive Paul as he returns to Jerusalem (21:17-20)? What is the issue they fear (21:21-25)? What do the Jews from Asia accuse Paul of doing (21:27-29)? What is the reaction of the city (21:30-32)?
2. Read Acts 21:37 – 22:2. What parallels can you identify between Paul's entry into Jerusalem and Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (Luke 19-23)? How does Paul react to the crowds that want to "get rid of him"?

### **Explore**

3. What is the offence of the gospel to the crowd hearing Paul's testimony (22:22)? What would make people reject the gospel if they heard your testimony?
4. The trouble that Paul finds himself in seems to be a consequence of the tension between tradition and traditionalism. What in Paul's testimony (in Acts 22 or elsewhere in his New Testament writings) convinces you that Paul isn't just a rebel to tradition, and what in his testimony (or elsewhere) convinces you that he is following the truth even when he appears to step away from tradition?
5. Luke offers this account of Paul (and of his entire ministry) as more than a personal testimony; it is a pattern that imitates Jesus' ministry, and a pattern of the church's ministry. How might the church of today learn from this pattern and what it means to be strong and courageous?
6. Reflecting on a specific incident or time in your life, what gives you strength and courage for your faith, especially in the face of opposition?
  - ☐ Trust in the Holy Spirit
  - ☐ Compassion for others
  - ☐ Hope in God's redemption

### **Pray**

- Pray for yourself and for the church in the world to be strong and courageous, trusting and joyful compassionate and hopeful.
- Pray for someone for whom the offence of the gospel is the stumbling block to faith and surrender to God.