

Subject	Lessons from Acts	4422
		Acts 22
Title	7 Lessons from Acts 22	
Proposition	To study Acts 22 looking for lessons to help us follow the pattern of the New Testament church.	
Objective	So that we can be the kind of people God would have us to be.	

7 LESSONS FROM ACTS 22

Introduction:

1. Paul's speech to the people in the Hebrew tongue (21:40) is given here in chapter 22.
2. He sought to make a defense which would calm down opposition to him.
3. He gave a summary of his life—which should have been quite impressive and favorably received by these Jews, for the most part.
4. The part that was NOT favorably received was that about his conversion, and most especially, the mention of salvation for the GENTILES (vv. 21-22).
5. With great religious fervor, the crowd reacted violently against Paul.
 - 1) The chief captain certainly did not want to be held responsible for a riot so he bound Paul, intending that he should be scourged, and took him into the castle.
 - 2) This is where Paul brought up the fact of his Roman citizenship.
 - 3) The chief captain had paid a great sum to attain citizenship, but Paul was “free born” a citizen.
6. The chief captain was unsure how to proceed but was afraid because of his having bound a Roman citizen with no trial.
7. Arrangements were made more formally to hear charges against Paul which the Jews might wish to pursue.

DISCUSSION: One LESSON from Acts

1. At times, things enter our minds and affect our future actions (1).

Acts 22:1 Men, brethren, and fathers, hear ye my defence which I make now unto you.

1. BRETHREN AND FATHERS... is an interesting phrase because it also was how Stephen began his beautiful sermon of defense in Acts 7.
 - 1) Studying this and other related passages suggests to me that Saul was much affected by that Acts 7 scene.
 - 2) Maybe he did not know exactly how to fit it into the worldview he held at that time.
2. I could not prove this theory, but I have given it a lot of thought from time to time.
 - 1) It seems to me that what Saul saw and heard back in Acts 7 did have a deep and profound impact on his heart.
 - 2) Saul/Paul was definitely present for that sermon— Acts 7:58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.
 - 3) A passage to ponder back in chapter 9 is verse 5... Acts 9:5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.
 - 1- What is the meaning of this last phrase from the Lord?

- 2- It is obviously FIGURATIVE—Paul was not an ox kicking back at the owner's prick designed to get him moving along
 - 3- It seems to me that perhaps Jesus is saying something about Saul's state of mind as he stands before Him on that Damascus road.
 - 4- Was it really a HAPPY job to go around expressing hatred toward a group of people, the saints?
 - 5- We do know that he believed God wanted him to do these things— Acts 23:1 **And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.**
 - 6- BUT, isn't it just possible that the scene at Stephen's Acts 7 sermon troubled Saul from that moment till his conversion, not fully understanding it???
 - 1] Some people believe and even teach that the OT system was not so much about LOVE, but the NT is.
 - 2] I say that idea is false.
 - 3] LOVE for fellowman has always been a part of God's prescription for a good life.
 - 4] They were not taught by the Law to HATE anyone, but rather that they were God's special people and that they must remain separated from those who were not.
 - 5] It is not right to HATE anyone and never has been right.
 - 6] I believe that Paul had been convinced by the Jewish authorities that what he did in opposing Christians was NOT wrong and that he was having somewhat of a tussle in his own mind about it. - 6- **READ Acts 7:54-57 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. (55) But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, (56) And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. (57) Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,**
 - 7- **And Jesus is now calling Saul to do something about his problem: KICKING AGAINST THE PRICKS.**
 - 8- I cannot imagine how anyone who saw that scene would not have been GREATLY TROUBLED by it.
 - 9- Even, perhaps, finding it hard to KICK AGAINST THE PRICKS.
3. I believe that this thought should be important to you and me today.
- 1) Our business is saving lost souls.
 - 2) We should be about the business of doing as much GOOD and as LITTLE HARM is possible in our earthly sojourn.
 - 3) **The fact is, we DO NOT KNOW HOW this little good deed we do now—MIGHT AFFECT SOMEONE'S FUTURE decisions about what to do with Jesus, the Christ!!!**
 - 4) I seriously DOUBT that Stephen knew his gentle spirit which he demonstrated when his life was on the line had an impact on the great preacher: THE APOSTLE PAUL.

- 5) Notice the very last verse in Acts 7— Acts 7:60 **And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.**

One LESSON from Acts

2. Language skills can sometimes be a GREAT BLESSING (2).

Acts 22:2 (And when they heard that he spake in the Hebrew tongue to them, **they kept the more silence:** and he saith,)

1. **THEY KEPT THE MORE SILENCE...** Basically, they paid better attention and caused much less distraction from what Paul wanted to communicate to them.
2. When a person is trying to communicate an important message, he **NEEDS** the full attention of those he is speaking to in order to accomplish **COMMUNICATION**.
 - 1) Communication is a 2-way street requiring a speaker and a listener.
 - 2) It doesn't happen in a lopsided arrangement.
 - 3) It is sure that Paul knew Greek and Hebrew and chances are good that he would also have known Latin.
 - 4) His use of the right language, **THE LANGUAGE THE MOB LOVED** on that day was a game-changer!
3. It was my great privilege to be in Kiev, Ukraine, on the Lord's Day morning when Roger Campbell preached his first sermon without an interpreter.
 - 1) He had worked hard for a couple of years to learn a very difficult **RUSSIAN LANGUAGE**.
 - 2) Before that Sunday he was communicating with the assembly, but it had to be done through an interpreter.
 - 3) It was quite interesting and amazing to me how the assembly reacted to Roger's **HUGE EFFORT** he had put forth to learn their language.
 - 1- The silence and rapt attention was **OBVIOUS** even to someone who did not understand a word that was being said.
 - 2- Roger communicated on **THAT** day on a different level than his previous sermons.
 - 4) I suspect it was something like what that unruly mob experienced in Acts 22.2.
4. When I go to Indonesia or India, I cannot speak to the people except through an interpreter.
 - 1) I am quite confident that **MUCH BETTER** communication would take place were I to know Telegu or Bahasa Indonesia!
 - 2) And so I say unequivocally, **LANGUAGE SKILLS CAN BE A GREAT BLESSING**.
 - 3) After all that was one of the spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12.
5. The main reason I bring this up is that there is a certain season when studying languages is most likely to be successful.
 - 1) That season is when **WE ARE YOUNG!**
 - 2) Our minds are sharper.
 - 3) This is an area of study which our young people might want to think about.
 - 4) There are so many ways that knowing another language can be a **HELP** in the spread of the gospel of Christ.
 - 5) As a young person, if I have as one of my goals to be as helpful to the church as possible, I would think that language study would be a valuable area to consider.

- 6) If I am a young girl and won't ever be standing before a group of non-English speakers like Roger Campbell did.
- 1) There still are tons of ways to use a second language in evangelism.
 - 2) Consider those possibilities as you are YOUNG.
 - 3) It grows more and more difficult to learn a language as you get older!!!

One LESSON from Acts

3. Paul takes away the EXCUSE some give for NOT obeying the gospel (4).

Acts 22:4 **And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.**

1. Over and over again the response to an attempt to study the Bible with people: **WELL, YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I HAVE DONE IN THE PAST.**
2. Paul's life surely would be exhibit A in refuting the proposition that someone can be so evil that he cannot change and has no chance of being saved from sin!
3. He was **FIGHTING AGAINST GOD** by **FIGHTING AGAINST GOD'S PEOPLE.**
4. And yet he had **NOT** done anything for which he could not repent and be forgiven.
5. That is the **AMAZING** love and **GRACE** of the Lord you and I serve.
6. Our message to lost people, somehow, **MUST** communicate that tremendously important fact.

4. One of the GREAT QUESTIONS in the Bible (16).

Acts 22:16 **And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.**

1. A fruitful area of Bible study would be looking at the questions recorded in the Bible.
2. There are many things in our lives that are **NOT** urgent!
 - 1) I really do not have to check my Email **IMMEDIATELY.**
 - 2) There is no great urgency in opening up **TWITTER** or **FACEBOOK.**
 - 3) Whether I eat out or in is of no major consequence.
3. **BUT**, it is a matter of the greatest urgency whether or not I am prepared to die and meet the Lord in Judgment!!!
 - 1) I love the fact that this good-hearted man whose conscience was never allowed to be violated (23.1), was approached with the gospel message as a matter **OF GREAT URGENCY** by Ananias.
 - 2) He told Paul that he could put off everything else, but the message he had for him **FROM THE LORD** was one he could not put off till later.
 - 3) Did you know that, even though Ananias was directly chosen by Jesus to deliver this message, that if He had chosen me or you to deliver that message **WE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO CONVEY THE VERY SAME URGENCY!!!**
4. There simply is **NOT** a message that has greater urgency than the message that one's sins are only washed away by **ARISING AND BEING BAPTIZED!**
5. **WHY???** 😊 *I will read two passages and rest my case--*
 - 1) **2 Thessalonians 1:7-9** **And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, (8) In flaming**

fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: (9) Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

- 2) **Matthew 25:41** Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

One LESSON from Acts

5. Presents an IMPORTANT phrase which is often misunderstood (16).

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

1. What does it mean TO CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD?
2. It certainly does not suggest a mere verbal plea to Christ for salvation.
 - 1) Jesus plainly said that not everyone who calls, 'Lord, Lord,' will be saved (Mt 7:21; cf., Lk 6:46).
 - 2) Rather, when compared with information given in Acts 2, 'calling' is equivalent to OBEYING.
 - 1- If calling on the Lord results in salvation (2:21),
 - 2- And yet repentance combined with baptism produces forgiveness of sins (2:38),
 - 3- It logically follows that 'calling' is equivalent to penitent baptism. ...
- 3 There is, of course, no way mere 'water' could 'wash away' sins.
 - 1) The water of baptism contains no magical essence.
 - 2) It is not a 'sacrament' by which sins are washed away with the mere utterance of certain words, as in the Roman Catholic system of things...
 - 3) Immersion is, however, the divinely appointed means of accessing the blood of Christ.
 - 4) **Romans 6:3-4** Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
 - 5) To deny such is a repudiation of the plain testimony of the New Testament" [Wayne Jackson, pp., 20-21; 303].

One LESSON from Acts

6. Roman citizenship had some features LIKE kingdom of God citizenship (25, 28).

Acts 22:25 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?

Acts 22:28 And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was free born.

1. Paul was able to avoid being SCOURGED simply because he was a Roman citizen; Christians are able to avoid the place prepared for the devil and his angels by being a citizen of the KINGDOM OF GOD.
2. There was more than one way to have Roman citizenship.
 - 1) A bribe could be paid to some corrupt Roman official.
 - 2) Someone could do something that was judged helpful to Rome and be awarded citizenship.
 - 3) OR, you could, like Paul inherit citizenship by birth.
3. Paul took full advantage of being a Roman citizen and was unwilling to allow these zealous soldiers to beat him by letting it be known he certain protections.
4. There is ONLY ONE WAY to have kingdom citizenship, and that is by obeying the gospel.

5. **Someone DID pay a very high price for the possibility of us entering the kingdom— Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**

One LESSON from Acts

7. God was able to use Paul's Roman citizenship to preach in Rome (25).

Acts 22:25 And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned?

1. **Acts 28:19 But when the Jews spake against it, I was constrained to appeal unto Caesar; not that I had ought to accuse my nation of.**
2. **Acts 25:11 For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar.**
3. **The events recorded in the closing chapters of Acts are all about Paul getting to Rome.**
 - 1) **He went to Rome because that is where Caesar was.**
 - 2) **While there, he had opportunity to spread the saving message in that important city.**
 - 3) **Philippians 1:12-13 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; (13) So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;**
 - 4) **Philippians 4:22 All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.**
4. **God used Paul's Roman citizenship to get Paul to Rome and his mission was to preach there the saving message.**

Conclusion:

1. **What an AMAZING book is the Book of Acts.**
2. **Keep studying it and seeking in it practical lessons for Christian living from our family history book.**