

**Text: Ac 22.14-15**

Typically, our afternoon message is shorter than the AM message. We will see how we do today!

In our message this morning, we covered the part of Paul's defense before the Jerusalem mob where he recounts his conversion.

We are still in that section, but I want to pause near the end of it to look at two verses, where Paul quotes Ananias giving him a message from God.

Read Ac 22.6-16, text 14-15

In these two verses we see Paul's appointment as an apostle. It is not exactly a parallel for us as far as the office of apostle is concerned, but our concern in the Christian life is the same as the apostle's

**Proposition:** You have seen Christ. Now you must speak for him.

**I. The qualifying experience (14)**

A. The apologetic aspect of Paul's defense continues

1. Paul's work comes from "the God of our fathers"
2. Paul's subject matter is "the Righteous One" (a messianic term from the OT)

B. The divine appointment

1. The word doesn't signify "foreordination" but deliberate and permanent selection
2. Three key functions are selected for him
  - a. To know his will
  - b. To see the Righteous One
  - c. To hear an utterance from his mouth
3. This experience began on the Damascus Road
  - a. It continued elsewhere

Gal 1.17-18 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me; but I went away to Arabia, and returned once more to Damascus.<sup>18</sup> ¶ Then three years later I went up to Jerusalem to become acquainted with Cephas, and stayed with him fifteen days.

- b. It equipped him for the ministry
- c. It paralleled the experience of the apostles (Mk 3.14)

Mk 3.14 And He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him and that He *could* send them out to preach,

- 1) They were in the “Seminary of the Saviour”
- 2) They were with him to learn from him
- 3) Then they were sent out to preach

Mt 28.19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Ac 1.8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

- d. Paul missed the first class of the Seminary, but he caught the late class

## II. The commissioning statement (15)

- A. Almost a repetition of Acts 1.8

Ac 1.8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

- B. The elements of the commission that did not yet disturb the Jews
  - 1. You will be a witness for him
  - 2. You will be a witness *to all men*

“Obviously the Jewish crowd did not catch on that all people included the Gentiles.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> John B. Polhill, *Acts*, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1992), 461.

### C. You will witness what you have seen and heard

This is the same commission as we all have

1. What have you seen? You have an obligation to tell that to others
2. What did he see?
  - a. Well, first, the oft-repeated story of his conversion (likewise we)
  - b. Then he began to really understand the Scriptures after many years of study (and we *can* grow in our understanding, and tell that)
  - c. He also saw the Lord deliver him and lead him and teach him through the many years of his ministry (and with time, we, too, can have some of that)
3. Seen and heard

In the perfect tense: “stresses the abiding effect of what has happened to him directly as a key to the witness”<sup>2</sup>

### Conclusion:

Your walk with Christ should produce sights and sounds that move you permanently.

You have an obligation, like Paul, to bear witness to these things.

**Proposition:** You have seen Christ. Now you must speak for him.

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<sup>2</sup> Bock, *Acts*, 661.