

Sermon Notes

For Further Thought And Discussion

Getting Started:

- What was helpful to you in this week's sermon? What didn't you understand?
- Have you ever been wrongfully accused of something? How did you respond? What was the outcome of the situation?

The Power of Persuasion
Acts 21:37-22:29

The Prerequisite – Common Ground (22:1-16)

Going Deeper:

- How does Paul establish common ground with his Jewish audience (22:1-16)? Make a list of the ways he does this.
 - Why is common ground a prerequisite of persuasion?
- When Jesus gives Paul his ministry assignment, Paul protests (22:18-21). Why? How does the crowd react to Paul's testimony (vv. 22-23)? How does the crowd's reaction validate Jesus' words?
- How is Paul misrepresented and misunderstood in this passage? How does he exhibit humility in the midst of this?

The Focal Point – Jesus (22:17-22)

Application:

- How can you build common ground with those in your sphere of influence? What could you read about/learn more about in order to better connect with these people?
- As we think about doing ministry, we should look without (i.e. look for the people/opportunities God has placed in our path), and not merely within (i.e. think about our gifts and abilities). Why is this? Think about the opportunities and people in your sphere of influence. What ministry might God be calling you to? How can your group support you in doing it?
- What's one thing you can do this week to apply this message?

The Posture – Humility (22:23-29; cf. 21:37-40)