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Next Weeks Lesson: "For the Perfecting of the Saints" ([Ephesians](#))

Today's Lesson: "Thou Hast Testified of Me" ([Acts 21-28](#))

Is there a person in the scriptures with whom you feel you can identify, because of similar thoughts, experiences, or situations? Why do you feel a particular closeness to this person?

In looking back at his experiences after the First Vision, the Prophet Joseph Smith felt that his experiences were similar to the Apostle Paul's ([Joseph Smith—History 1:23-25](#)).

The Apostle Paul's appearance before King Agrippa is one of the events that will be discussed in this lesson. In this situation and throughout his missionary journeys, despite rejection and persecution, Paul stood firm in the faith and courageously bore testimony of Jesus Christ.

1. Paul reports on his journeys and faces an angry mob in Jerusalem. ([Acts 21:1-22:21](#))

After three successful missionary journeys that took him throughout the Roman empire, Paul returned to Jerusalem, though he knew it was dangerous to do so.



- A.** Why did Paul's friends try to stop him from returning to Jerusalem? ([Acts 21:10-12](#)) How did Paul respond to his friends' concerns? ([Acts 21:13](#)) How did this demonstrate Paul's commitment to Christ?
- B.** What did Paul do the day after he reached Jerusalem? ([Acts 21:17-19](#)) How is this similar to what missionaries today do after returning from their missions? How have you benefited from hearing about others' missionary experiences?



- C.** Many Jewish Christians resented Paul for teaching that salvation came through Jesus Christ, not the law of Moses ([Acts 15:1-35](#)). To please these people, the brethren in Jerusalem asked Paul to go to the temple and undergo ritual cleansing as a sign that he still observed the law ([Acts 21:20-25](#)). What happened while Paul was in the temple? ([Acts 21:26-30](#)) How was Paul rescued from this mob? ([Acts 21:31-36](#)) What did Paul do when the chief captain allowed him to speak to the people? ([Acts 21:37-22:21](#)) Why did this require courage?
- D.** When have you borne your testimony in a situation that required courage? How did you gain the courage to do this? How can learning about Paul's actions help us have more courage to share our testimonies with others?

2. Paul is taken before the Sanhedrin. ([Acts 22:22-23:35](#))

- A. How did the crowd outside the temple respond to Paul's account of his conversion? ([Acts 22:22](#)) What was the chief captain's purpose in removing Paul from the mob? ([Acts 22:24](#)) How was Paul able to avoid being scourged? ([Acts 22:25-26](#))
- B. What was the first thing Paul said when he was brought before the Sanhedrin (the Jewish council)? ([Acts 23:1](#); [Acts 24:16](#); [D&C 135:4](#)) How do you think Paul's "good conscience before God" helped him at this time? Consider what changes you need to make in your own lives to have a "good conscience before God."
- C. What did the Lord say when he appeared to Paul following Paul's examination by the Sanhedrin? ([Acts 23:11](#)) How has the Lord helped you "be of good cheer" during difficult times?
- D. The day after the Lord appeared to Paul, more than 40 Jews plotted to kill Paul, vowing not to eat or drink until they succeeded ([Acts 23:12-15](#)). How was Paul protected from their plan? ([Acts 23:16-35](#). This was the third time in just a few days that Paul was protected from death.)

3. Paul testifies to Agrippa, but his testimony is rejected. ([Acts 26](#))

Paul was sent to Felix, the governor, and testified boldly before him. Paul remained a prisoner for two years while Felix hoped to receive money to free him. When Felix was succeeded as governor by Festus, the Jews asked Festus to send Paul to Jerusalem for trial. Paul refused to go, knowing he would not get a fair trial there. Instead, Paul appealed to Caesar, as was his right as a Roman citizen. Festus agreed to send Paul to Rome, but Paul first had to appear before Herod Agrippa, a Roman-appointed ruler.

- A. What impresses you about Paul's words to King Agrippa? ([Acts 26:2-27](#)) How did Agrippa respond to Paul's words? ([Acts 26:28](#)) What might have kept Agrippa from becoming a Christian? What attitudes or other problems keep people today from accepting the gospel of Jesus Christ?
- B. How were Festus's and Agrippa's reactions to Paul different? How were they similar? ([Acts 26:24](#), [Acts 26:28](#). Nothing less than complete devotion is acceptable to the Lord. Although Agrippa found Paul's message almost believable while Festus rejected it outright, both failed the test of faith Paul offered them.)

4. Paul is shipwrecked on his way to Rome. ([Acts 27-28](#))

Agrippa had been willing to release Paul ([Acts 26:32](#)), but Paul had appealed to

Caesar and so was sent to Rome.

- A.** What happened when the master of the ship rejected Paul's warning that it was too dangerous to sail from Fair Havens? ([Acts 27:7-20](#)) What motivated the centurion to disregard Paul's counsel? ([Acts 27:11-12](#)) Why do some of us occasionally disregard our Church leaders' counsel? How have you learned the importance of following Church leaders' counsel?
- B.** How did Paul know that all of the passengers would arrive on land safely, though the ship would be destroyed in the storm? ([Acts 27:21-26](#)) How was this prophecy fulfilled? ([Acts 27:27-44](#))
- C.** How did Paul use his priesthood power while on the island of Melita? ([Acts 28:7-9](#)) What does this incident suggest about the purpose of priesthood power? How does honoring the priesthood help us serve as witnesses of Christ?
- D.** After several months, Paul finally reached Rome, where he was again imprisoned. How did he turn this seeming setback to his advantage? ([Acts 28:16-31](#)) What can we learn from Paul about being a faithful witness of Jesus Christ?

Historians assume that Paul died a martyr's death in Rome about A.D. 65. Throughout his life, he fulfilled his responsibility as an Apostle to "go ye therefore, and teach all nations" ([Matthew 28:19](#)). He also fulfilled the Lord's prophecy that he would preach the gospel "before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel" ([Acts 9:15](#)). He was a faithful witness of Christ despite verbal and physical attacks, unjust imprisonment, and natural disasters. When we follow Paul's example by being faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ in all situations, He will give us the strength to endure our trials.