

Ready to Give a Defense

Acts 22:1-21

Main Point:

For the sake of Christ and His gospel, always be ready to give a defense of your faith and ministry.

1. There will be times when you need to give a defense for the sake of the gospel.

2. In these times, you should be kind and try to establish rapport.

3. In these times, you should tell of the change Jesus brought about in you.

4. In these times, you should tell of the charge Jesus gave to you.

5. In these times, you should be ready.

Luke 21:12-13 12 But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and persecute *you*, delivering *you* up to the synagogues and prisons. You will be brought before kings and rulers for My name's sake. 13 But it will turn out for you as an occasion for testimony. (NKJV)

Dennis Johnson “Despite the life-threatening beating from which he had just been rescued, Paul was unwilling to give up his attempt to vindicate the gospel in the eyes of his Jewish kinsmen.”

1 Peter 3:15 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always *be* ready to *give* a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (NKJV)

Proverbs 15:1 1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger. (NKJV)

Derek Thomas “Saul’s conservative Jewish upbringing, his zeal for the law, and his contact with Ananias, as well as the vision in the temple, were all designed to underscore his Jewish credentials.”

Simon Kistemaker “In communicating the gospel effectively, he must strive to gain a point of contact with the audience.”

Philippians 3:4-7 4 ... If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. (NKJV)

Isaiah 53:11 11 He shall see the labor of His soul, *and* be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. (NKJV)

Simon Kistemaker “The Lord is fully in control of the calling and conversion of Paul, for already he has arranged a task for him.”

Matthew Henry “This defense may be necessary more than once or twice, so ... Christians should be always prepared to make it ...”