

INTRO

- Have you ever been the recipient of someone's radical kindness and generosity? Share.

The story of Jesus does not end with Jesus. It continues in the lives of those who believe in and follow him. The book of Acts continues his life and mission through his Spirit and his Church.

READ

Acts 26:1-29

What do you observe about God and people in this text?

REFLECT & RESPOND

In the final section of the book of Acts (21-28), Luke describes in detail the trials that Paul went through. The longest of these trials is mentioned in Acts 26. Luke's account inspires the church by showing them how Jesus' words in Acts 1:8 are being fulfilled through the faithful witness of the church as a whole and Paul in particular. From the text, 5 characteristics make our witness to Jesus effective.

1. Providential Witness—Despite life's setbacks, we can trust God's Providence over them and the people He brings into our lives for a reason. We can be witnesses to them.

- *Qu: Can you think of a personal experience where you saw God's providence at work?*

2. Personal Witness — our personal story and encounter with Jesus are powerful and important to our witness.

- *Qu: why do you think our personal stories are important in conveying the gospel?*

3. Purposeful Witness — Jesus uses our witness to help “open their eyes” (v17) to turn

from darkness and deception to light and truth (2 Cor 4:4-6). Witness is warfare!

- *Qu: how does this change your perspective on sharing your faith?*

4. Persuasive Witness—Paul worked hard to persuade others to believe in the gospel. We should, too. The art of persuasion requires credibility, passion, and reasons to believe.

- *Qu: How can we strike a balance between being passionate about our faith while also respecting differing beliefs?*

5. Persevering Witness—“Short time or long,” Paul said, indicating that sometimes our witness yields immediate fruit, and sometimes, we need to persevere in our witness.

- *Qu: What are some practical ways to maintain perseverance in our witness, especially during times when immediate results aren't visible?*

For Paul, Jesus was everything, and there is nothing more powerful to our witness when we live our lives with Jesus at the centre of it.

RESPOND & PRAY

- Pray for a renewed trust in God's providence and ask for divine opportunities in the coming week.
- Pray for the eyes of those we're reaching out to be open (PEBCI).