

## “The Hero”

New Day Church

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Acts 21:37-22:21

Use this guide as a tool to help you prepare to experience spiritual transformation in a practical way. It is a **flexible guide** that will help you discover, own, and apply the truths of God’s Word.

### Message Summary

Paul was arrested in the temple and wrongly accused of leading people to forsake the Law of Moses and the temple. He was taken into custody by the Roman authorities. As a result, Paul requested to defend himself to his brethren and accusers, the Jews. Once his request was granted, Paul made a defense to the Jews as to why he had converted to Christianity by laying out his conversion story.

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> time we hear about Paul’s conversion in the book of Acts. The first time, in chapter 9, we hear about it from Luke’s perspective. Now we hear about it from Paul’s mouth. As the reader hears Paul tell his story something important jumps out. Paul’s story isn’t about Paul; it’s really is God’s Story. It’s a story of redemption. It’s a story of rescue. It’s a story of transformation. And at the center of the story is the Hero Himself, Jesus Christ.

As you prepare to meet with your Missional Community this week examine your own story in light of God’s Story. Use the sermon outline to help craft your own story. Over the next few weeks we hope to hear some stories from others in the Missional Community. Won’t you be the first to share how the Hero changed your life?

### Message Outline

Your story should be told in light of God’s Story.

1. Creation points to our Identity as Image-bearers.

Yet all of us look to something else to define us.

Who/what shaped your...

- Understanding of self.
- Sense of personal value.
- Identity.

2. Fall points to our sin as the blame for our Brokenness.

Yet we tend to blame...

- God.
- Others.
- Circumstances.

What is broken in your life?

- Relationships?
- Lifestyle?
- Attitudes?

3. Redemption points to Jesus as our Rescuer from sin’s penalty.

Yet we tend to look to created things to save us.

- Acceptance/Approval.
- Possessions/Money.

Only Jesus’ death for sin & resurrection for life can save us!

What people or things failed to rescue you?

How did the Spirit lead you to put your faith in Jesus? Did He use...

- People?
- The Bible?
- Circumstance?

4. Restoration points to Jesus as having Transformed us into new creations.

Yet we crave to mend brokenness our way.

But Jesus is changing us to live the way we were created to live.

- Worship.
- Heart-change.
- Obedience.

Who and what is the focus of your life?

## “The Hero”

### **Group Discussion**

Use the following questions to help make application of God’s Word to your Head (What God wants me to know), to your Heart (What God wants me to desire/value), and to your Hands (What God wants me to do).

In regard to Acts 21:37-22:21:

1. What does this passage say about God’s character?
2. What is God doing here? How does this passage fit in the overall narrative of the Bible?
3. What is God saying about me?
4. Where am I not living by faith? How do I return to faith?
5. How should I practice this in everyday life?

### **Weekly Prayer Focus**

- **Church:**
  - Pray that God would give us new believers and covenant members.
  - Pray for new relationships that will lead to Gospel conversations.
  - Pray for the elders as they lead us to accomplish the mission.
  - Pray for the Missional Communities to establish their goals and objects and begin to live them out.
- **Local:**
  - Pray for the SRB MC Group as they prepare to engage their community and build Gospel relationships through the Friday Night Beach Bonfire Outreach.
  - Pray that God would burden us with the lostness in our cities, neighborhoods, and at work.
  - Pray that God will identify 5 people you can begin to invest in and engage with the Gospel.
- **Global:**
  - Pray that God would give you a heart for the nations.
  - Pray for the trip to SEA. Pray for the work God has and will do among this group!