

## SERMON NOTES

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### **Pride, Prejudice and The Power of the Gospel**

Acts 22  
Ben Joyce  
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#### **The Power of the Gospel for Personal Pride**

Acts 22:3

<sup>3</sup> "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. Under Gamaliel I was thoroughly trained in the law of our fathers and was just as zealous for God as any of you are today.

Philippians 3:4-6

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

Acts 22:4-5

<sup>4</sup> I persecuted the followers of this Way to their death, arresting both men and women and throwing them into prison, <sup>5</sup> as also the high priest and all the Council can testify. I even obtained letters from them to their brothers in Damascus, and went there to bring these people as prisoners to Jerusalem to be punished.

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Acts 22:14

<sup>14</sup> "Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth.'

1 Timothy 1:15

<sup>15</sup> Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.

Acts 22:7

<sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice say to me, 'Saul! Saul! Why do you persecute me?'

Romans 5:8

<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 3:17-19

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, <sup>18</sup> may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, <sup>19</sup> and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

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Philippians 3:7-9

<sup>7</sup> But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

### **The Power of the Gospel for Prejudice**

Acts 22:21-22

<sup>21</sup> “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’”

<sup>22</sup> The crowd listened to Paul until he said this. Then they raised their voices and shouted, “Rid the earth of him! He’s not fit to live!”

Genesis 12:2-3

<sup>2</sup> “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you;

I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

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Philippians 2:3-6

<sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup> Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature <sup>[b]</sup> God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

<sup>7</sup> but made himself nothing, taking the very nature <sup>[b]</sup> of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Romans 15:15-16

<sup>15</sup> I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.