

# “How God uses our Stories”

*Acts 26; Philemon; 2 Timothy 1, 3*

*“Let this be written for a future generation, that a people not yet created may praise the LORD” (Psalm 102:18)*

2 Chron. 33 is Manasseh’s story about how God saved him and used him for His purposes. There are many ways God uses our testimonies for different situations. We’re going to look at a few different ways in which God used different people’s testimonies and how He used them. This helps us be aware of the different ways God uses our stories.

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## Acts 26

Who is giving his testimony? (v.1) \_\_\_\_\_

Who is he speaking to? (v.2) \_\_\_\_\_  
(v.24) \_\_\_\_\_

Are they believers or unbelievers? (vv.28-29)

### \*What is Paul’s purpose for sharing his story?

How does Paul connect with Agrippa? (v.3)

What does he use to establish some common ground with him?  
(vv.5, 8; cf. Matt. 22:33)

What other connection does he make in vv. 9-11?

Go back to vv.6-7. What mutual understanding does Paul hope Agrippa shares with him?

**22:6** “And now it is because of my hope in what God has \_\_\_\_\_ our ancestors that I am on trial today.

**22:7** “This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see \_\_\_\_\_ as they earnestly serve God day and night. King Agrippa, it is because of this \_\_\_\_\_ that these Jews are accusing me.”

While Paul recounts his personal vision of Jesus, what does he try and do with Agrippa’s Jewish understanding?

**22:19** “So then, King Agrippa, I was not \_\_\_\_\_ to the vision from heaven.

**22:20** “First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.”

*What else is Paul very careful to do?*

**22:22** “But \_\_\_\_\_ has helped me to this very day; so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ said would happen—

**22:23** “that the Messiah would \_\_\_\_\_ and, as the first to \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

***So when does Herod tell Paul to stop and how does Paul personally challenge Agrippa? (vv.24-29)***

## **Philemon**

*Paul is the speaker but he’s using someone else’s testimony. Whose? (vv.10-11)*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Who is he speaking to mostly? (v.1) \_\_\_\_\_*

*What is the connection between Onesimus and Philemon?*

S \_\_\_\_\_ to m \_\_\_\_\_ (vv.15-16)

*Are they believers or unbelievers? (vv.15-16)*

**\*What is Paul’s purpose for sharing his story? (vv.18-19)**

*How does Paul connect with Philemon? (vv.4-7)*

*What does he use to establish some common ground with him? (vv.10-13)*

*What other connection does he make in v. 19?*

*What mutual understanding does Paul hope Philemon shares with him?*

**v.11** “Formerly he was \_\_\_\_\_ to you, but now he has become \_\_\_\_\_ both to you and to me.

**v.13** “I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in \_\_\_\_\_ me while I am in chains for the gospel.

**v.14** “But I did not want to do anything without \_\_\_\_\_ consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.

- v.15 “Perhaps the \_\_\_\_\_ he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever—
- v. 16 “no longer as a slave, but \_\_\_\_\_ than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a \_\_\_\_\_ in the Lord.”

## **2 Timothy 1, 3**

*Who is the speaker (v.1)* \_\_\_\_\_

*Who is he speaking to? (v.1)* \_\_\_\_\_

*What is the connection between Paul and Timothy?*

**1 Tim. 1:2** To Timothy my true son in the \_\_\_\_\_: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus...

*Were they believers or unbelievers?*

**\*What is Paul’s purpose for sharing his story?**

**1:8** “So do not be \_\_\_\_\_ of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in \_\_\_\_\_ for the gospel, by the power of God.

*How does Paul connect with Timothy? (vv.3-5)*

*What does he use to establish some common ground with him?  
(vv.6-7, 9-12)*

*What other connections does he make in vv. 13-18?*

**3:12-17**

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