

“A Misunderstood Missionary”

ONE BIG QUESTION:

- Do we as a church consider the people we are trying to reach as more important than **ourselves**?
 - o Are we so hopeful that God will work in the future that we are willing to be **uncomfortable** today?
 - o Are we willing to say, “This is not about **us**?”
 - o Are we willing to be misunderstood for the sake of reaching lost people?

A Misunderstood Missionary

- Paul was misunderstood in his **mission**. (21:1-16)
 - o His Christian friends tried to **protect** him from danger.
 - o Paul was relentless in his **pursuit** of Jesus, in spite of danger.
- Paul was misunderstood in his **ministry**. (21:17-40)
 - o The elders in Jerusalem heard about Paul’s work among the Gentiles and **rejoiced**.
 - o The elders then express concern about Paul’s teachings to the Jews that were based on **rumors**.
 - Some thought Paul was teaching **Jews** they should no longer follow the OT law.
 - Paul had only taught **Gentiles** that they were not required to keep the OT law.
 - God’s grace gave the Gentiles freedom to **abstain** from the law.
 - God’s grace gave the Jews freedom to **observe** the law.
 - o The elders ask Paul to publicly display his unity with the Jewish church by performing a vow.
 - Question: Why would Paul go through with it?
 - Paul loved the **Jewish** nation. (Romans 9:1)
 - Paul loved the **lost**. (1 Cor. 9:19-22)
 - Paul desired **unity** within the church.
 - Paul desired **peace** between Jews and Gentiles.
 - Question: Did Paul compromise the gospel?
 - Though some may question Paul’s judgment, the motive of his heart was **pure**.
 - Paul was trying to become all things to all men in order to save **some**.
 - Paul acted out of **love** by trying to avoid being offensive to his Jewish brothers.
 - o Paul is arrested after some Jews assume he brought a Gentile into the inner courts of the temple.
 - Just like Jesus, Paul was falsely **accused**.
 - Just like Jesus, Paul was wrongfully **arrested**.
- Paul was misunderstood in his _____. (22:1-29)
 - o He told about his former _____. (v. 1-5)
 - When you share your testimony, tell about your past without glorifying your _____.
 - o He told about his miraculous _____. (v. 6-16)
 - When you share your testimony, make it more about _____ than about _____.
 - o He told about his special _____. (v. 17-21)
 - When you share your testimony, elevate God’s purpose of _____ in the gospel.
- What are the 4 main parts of the Gospel?
 - o _____ - He is our holy Creator and righteous judge. He created us to glorify and enjoy Him forever.
 - o _____ - We have all rebelled against God by sinning against his law, and we deserve his wrath.
 - o _____ - Jesus, fully God and fully man, died the death we deserved and was raised from the dead.
 - o _____ - We must *repent* of our sins and *believe* in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of our sins.
- Even if we are misunderstood...
 - o Let’s be fervent to _____ for the lost.
 - o Let’s be faithful to _____ to the lost.