

PEACEMAKER

Stories of Peace

Acts 21:37-22:22



“We are, as a species, addicted to story.
Even when the body goes to sleep, the
mind stays up all night, telling itself
stories.”

- Jonathan Gottschall, *The Storytelling
Animal*



“Stories create community, enable us to see through the eyes of other people, and open us to the claims of others.”

- Peter Forbes, photographer and author



“The purpose of a storyteller is not to tell you how to think, but to give you questions to think upon.”

- Brandon Sanderson, author



“Storytelling is the most powerful way to
put ideas into the world.”

- Robert McKee,
professor focusing on the art of story at
University of Michigan



“Stories constitute the single most powerful weapon in a leader’s arsenal.”

- Howard Gardner, Harvard Professor of Education



About 1/3 of Jesus's recorded teachings were in the form of parables.

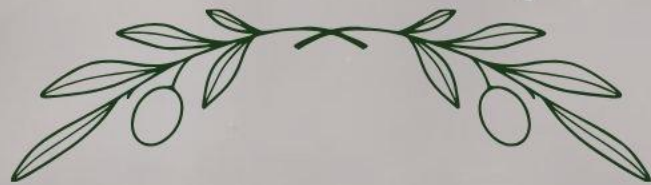


“These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying; give without pay. Acquire no gold or silver or copper for your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics or sandals or a staff, for the laborer deserves his food. And whatever town or village you enter, find out who is worthy in it and stay there until you depart. As you enter the house, greet it. And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you.”

- Matthew 10:5-13



A Season of Peace



THE GOD OF PEACE
A PERSON OF PEACE
HOUSEHOLDS OF PEACE
THE PRINCE OF PEACE
PEACE AMIDST CONFLICT



“Greet”

(Gk. aspazomai)

to draw to one’s self, to welcome
(connotation is welcome with joy)



“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 5:1



“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.”

Revelation 12:11



“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”

John 14:27



Testimony of Faithfulness

OR

Testimony of Forgetfulness



“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

2 Cor. 1:3-4



Storytelling

Part 1: What was going on that showed the absence of Yahweh's peace?

Part 2: What was the process for coming to know the peace of Yahweh?

Part 3: How is the peace of Yahweh now reigning in the situation?



Storytelling from Acts 21:37 - 22:22

As Paul was about to be brought into the barracks, he said to the tribune, “May I say something to you?” And he said, “Do you know Greek? Are you not the Egyptian, then, who recently stirred up a revolt and led the four thousand men of the Assassins out into the wilderness?” Paul replied, “I am a Jew, from Tarsus in Cilicia, a citizen of no obscure city. I beg you, permit me to speak to the people.” And when he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the steps, motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great hush, he addressed them in the Hebrew language, saying:

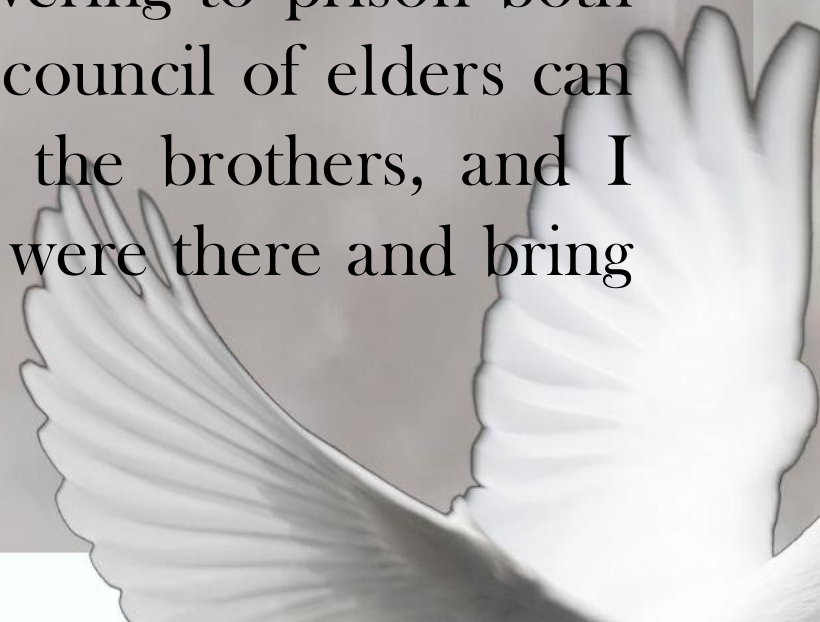


Part 1

“Brothers and fathers, hear the defense that I now make before you.”

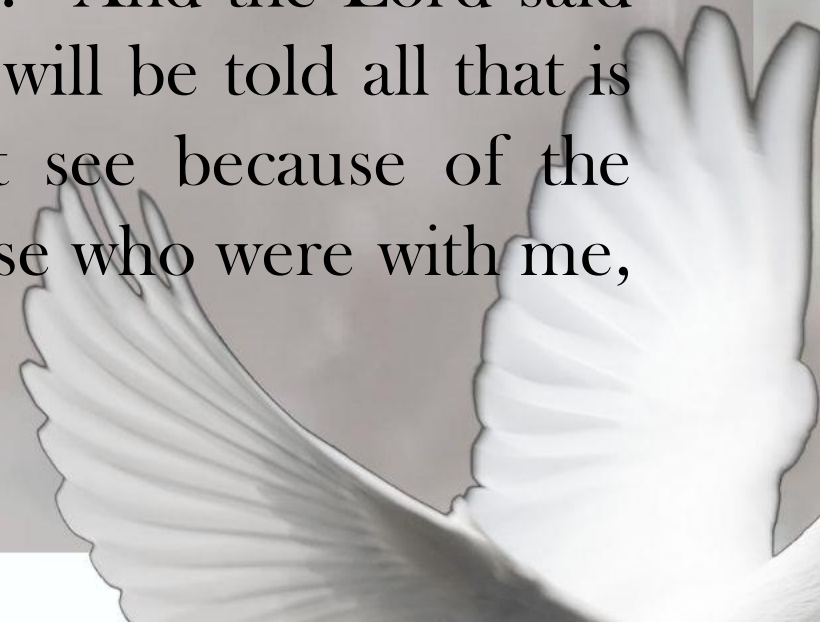
And when they heard that he was addressing them in the Hebrew language, they became even more quiet. And he said:

“I am a Jew, born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated at the feet of Gamaliel according to the strict manner of the law of our fathers, being zealous for God as all of you are this day. I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness. From them I received letters to the brothers, and I journeyed toward Damascus to take those also who were there and bring them in bonds to Jerusalem to be punished.



Part 2

“As I was on my way and drew near to Damascus, about noon a great light from heaven suddenly shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’ And I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And he said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’ Now those who were with me saw the light but did not understand the voice of the one who was speaking to me. And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’ And since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me, and came into Damascus.



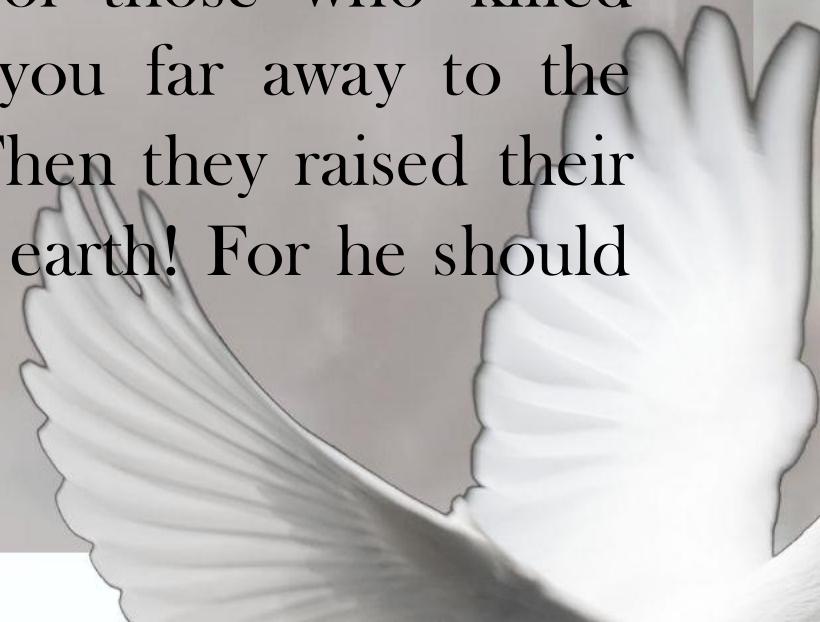
Part 2 continued

“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, came to me, and standing by me said to me, ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight.’ And at that very hour I received my sight and saw him. And he said, ‘The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’”



Part 3

“When I had returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I fell into a trance and saw him saying to me, ‘Make haste and get out of Jerusalem quickly, because they will not accept your testimony about me.’ And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’ And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’” Up to this word they listened to him. Then they raised their voices and said, “Away with such a fellow from the earth! For he should not be allowed to live.”



Know, develop, and share your stories!

