

“Then Paul said, “I am a Jew, born in Tarsus, a city in Cilicia, and I was brought up and educated here in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. As his student, I was carefully trained in our Jewish laws and customs. I became very zealous to honor God in everything I did, just like all of you today. And I persecuted the followers of the Way, hounding some to death, arresting both men and women and throwing them in prison.” Acts 22:3-4 NLT

## lectio // Acts 22:2-16

The testa-story (testimony). The story that you can tell that no one else can tell. And no one can invalidate it, or argue with it. You OWN it and it's yours to use. I like it when Luke writes, “When they heard him speaking in their own language, the silence was even greater.” Even the language, the rhythm, tempo and cadence of your story is all yours. You don't have to be someone else, you don't have to tell someone else's story - it is your own. I have found an abundance of excuses about why people don't tell their story. “My story is boring or plain,” - No, it's not. “My story might glorify the devil,” - No, it won't. “No one wants to hear it,” - Yes, they do. “People have heard me tell it too many times,” - No, they haven't. NEVER QUIT telling your story. The most powerful and most dangerous man alive in New Testament times, was instantly and miraculously changed and this allowed him access and insight into the highest levels of the religious, government and business systems at that time. Saul, then Paul had the key to those areas - his story. Your story is the most compelling, true opportunity you'll ever have. Use it often and use it wisely!

## oratio

Dad,

Wow. I love Paul's story. I love how wild it is. I love how powerful and effective it is. I am so thankful that Luke wrote it down and recorded the amazing transformation of a man who was previously your enemy (and didn't even know it). Help me, oh God, continue to encourage people to know and use their story.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root