



# A PAINFUL PATH

SEIZING GOD'S OPPORTUNITIES  
ACTS 21:37-40

Dr. Mike Fabarez • Focal Point Radio Ministries • October 21 & 22, 2023 • Acts, week 108 • Msg. 23-32

1. Ask: \_\_\_\_\_  
(v.37a)

2. Think: \_\_\_\_\_  
(vv.37b-39)

3. Act: \_\_\_\_\_ (v.40)

**Acts 21:37** 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? **38** 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?" **39** 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." **40** 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: (ESV)

# Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's sermon. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's study. It is also helpful when you are able to discuss your answers with others.

1. Read **Psalm 39:4**; **Matthew 24:42** and **John 9:4**. What does the urgency of fleeting opportunities do to change your perspective on what you need to be doing for the Lord now? What kind of things come to mind?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 15:55-58**. How does assurance regarding your destination in the next life enable you to live out the truth of v.58, even when your life is painful?
3. Read **2 Corinthians 11:24-33**. What does this list of Paul's struggles in serving others and seeking to save the lost do for you as you look around for opportunities to be used by God? What specific fears are you ready to lay on the altar as you consider being useful to the Lord in your environment this year?
4. Read **1 Peter 4:7-11**. What does this passage motivate you to do or do more of?
5. Read **1 Peter 4:12-14**. How can you incorporate the truths of this text to pray more specifically about the current season of your life?

The following related sermons are also available for downloading or streaming on the Focal Point Website and App (FPR.org).

- Msg. 21-19 – **Showing Up for Divine Appointments**
- Msg. 14-35 – **When Following Christ Is Painful**
- Msg. 22-03 – **Open Doors for the Word**
- Msg. 19-25 – **Purpose Fulfilled**
- Msg. 07-09 – **Living Life with the Hope of a New Purpose**
- Msg. 20-05 – **Expecting Opposition**
- Msg. 19-11 – **Faith-Filled Prayers**

## Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup> .....	Jer.7-8 & 1Tim.2
Oct. 23 <sup>rd</sup> .....	Jer.9-10 & 1Tim.3
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jer.11-13 & 1Tim.4
Oct. 25 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jer.14-16 & 1Tim.5
Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jer.17-19 & 1Tim.6
Oct. 27 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jer.20-22 & 2Tim.1
Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jer.23-24 & 2Tim.2
Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup> .....	Jer.25-26 & 2Tim.3

Here are some books which may assist you in a deeper study of the truths presented in today's sermon. While Pastor Mike cannot endorse every concept presented in each book, he does believe these resources will be helpful in profitably thinking through today's topic.

- Alcorn, Randy. **If God Is Good: Faith in the Midst of Suffering and Evil**. Multnomah Books, 2014.
- Beougher, Timothy. **Overcoming Walls to Witnessing**. 10 Publishing, 2021.
- Dever, Mark. **The Gospel and Personal Evangelism**. Crossway, 2008.
- Hendricks, Howard G. **Say It with Love**. Victor Books, 1972.
- Kroll, Woodrow. **Struggling with Selfishness: Choosing to Look Past Yourself**. Back to the Bible, 1996.
- Little, Paul. **How to Give Away Your Faith**. Intervarsity Press, 1966.
- Nettleton, Todd. **When Faith is Forbidden: 40 Days with Persecuted Christians**. Moody Publishing, 2021.
- Packer, J. I. **Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God**. InterVarsity Press, 1991.
- Packer, J. I. **God's Will: Finding Guidance for Everyday Decisions**. Baker Books, 2012.
- Peterson, Jim. **Living Proof: Sharing the Gospel Naturally**. NavPress, 1989.
- Saucy, Robert. **Scripture: Its Power, Authority, and Relevance**. Word Publishing, 2001.
- Swindoll, Charles. **Improving Your Serve: The Art of Unselfish Living**. Reprint. Word, 2002.
- Whitney, Donald. **Spiritual Disciplines Within the Church: Participating Fully in the Body of Christ**. Moody, 1996.