

**SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS**  
**Commentary by Michael Sigler**  
**August 29, 2010**

**Upheld by God**

Acts 28:16-25a, 28-31

**Key verses:** “[Paul] welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance” (Acts 28:30-31).

A TV commercial for Mercedes Benz shows a Mercedes car crashing into a cement wall, as part of a safety test. The company spokesman is then asked why Mercedes does not enforce its patent on the company’s energy-absorbing car body. (Other car companies have copied Mercedes’ design because of its success.) To this question, the spokesman answers: “Because some things in life are too important not to share.”

For the Apostle Paul, the good news of salvation through Christ was too important not to share! This passage at the end of Acts ought to challenge every Christ-follower with the same conviction.

Paul had finally reached Rome. He had long wanted to proclaim the gospel there, and finally he was in the capitol of the great empire. The only problem—he was a prisoner there under house arrest. But arrest and imprisonment did not stop Paul. Some things are just too important not to share.

First, he arranged to meet with the leaders of the Jewish community in Rome (v. 17). He told them the story of his arrest in Jerusalem and how he had come to Rome. Paul also argued his innocence. (vv. 17-20)

The Jewish leaders responded by saying: “We have received no letters from Judea about you, and none of the brothers coming here has reported or spoken anything evil about you. But we would like to hear from you what you think, for with regard to this sect, we know that everywhere it is spoken against” (vv. 21-22).

Paul saw in this statement an *open door* for sharing Jesus. And he boldly walked through. “From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets” (v. 23).

How about you? Do you pray for open doors to share Jesus with others? You will be surprised how God will answer that prayer. When he does, share your faith with boldness, as did Paul. Some things are just too important not to share!

How did the Jewish leaders respond to Paul's witness? "Some were convinced by what he had said, while others refused to believe" (v. 24). You can be sure that your efforts to share Jesus will not always be received or welcomed. Don't let the fear of rejection keep you from speaking up for Jesus. It didn't stop Paul:

"He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance" (vv. 30-31).

Some things are too important not to share!

The year he was elected president, Jimmy Carter was one of three men invited to speak to the 17,000 delegates at the Southern Baptist Convention. Each man had a five-minute time limit.

The first presenter was the great evangelist, Billy Graham. The speaker who followed Graham was a truck driver. He had never given a speech in his life. Nervously, he mumbled into the microphone: "I was always drunk, and didn't have any friends. The only people I knew were men like me who hung around the bars in the town where I lived."

The truck driver then described how someone told him about Jesus and led him to faith in Christ. A new Christian, the truck driver wanted to tell others about the Lord. Since he felt comfortable in bars, he decided to talk to people there. The bartender wasn't too happy with him. He told the truck driver that he was bad for business and a nuisance.

Undeterred, the truck driver kept on sharing about Jesus. In time, people at the bar began asking questions. He told the delegates: "At first they treated me like a joke, but I kept up with the questions, and when I couldn't answer one, I went and got the answer and came back with it. Fourteen of my friends became Christians."

Jimmy Carter writes: "That truck driver's speech was the highlight of the convention. I don't believe anyone who was there will ever forget that five-minute fumbling statement—or remember what I or even Billy Graham had to say." (from *Sources of Strength*)

God calls every believer to tell others about Jesus. Pray that God will open doors for you to share your faith with others. When those doors open, share boldly. Don't expect everyone you share with to be immediately receptive. Don't let fear of rejection keep you from sharing what Jesus has done for you and can do for them. Keep the faith—and give it away.

Some things are just too important not to share!

(Contact Michael at [msigler@fumcfwb.com](mailto:msigler@fumcfwb.com).)