**“What’s Your Story?”**

Going deeper in Acts 26:12-23

**INTRODUCTION** – The Christian faith has been spreading rapidly. The Apostle Paul has been an important part of this. Due to his part in spreading faith in Jesus there has been a plot on the part of Jewish leaders to kill him. The Romans have stepped in and taken Paul into custody. They want to know what has caused this kind of turmoil. Paul has been in custody for 2 years and at this point Paul is before King Agrippa II or Herod Agrippa II giving his defense or explaining what has happened. The following is part of what Paul says.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 12 On one of my journeys into Damascus I was armed with my commission from the high priests. 13 Right in the middle of the day, O King, a blazing light from heaven, brighter than the sun poured out around me and my companions. 14 We all fell flat on the ground and then I heard a voice in Hebrew: “Saul, Saul why are you out to get me? Fighting my purposes is a hard way to live.” 15 I said, “Who are you, Lord?” The voice answered, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting. 16 Now stand up on your feet – I have a job for you. I chosen you to serve and be a witness to the things you have seen and the things I am going to show you. 17 I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them 18 to open their eyes so they can see the difference from between dark and light and choose light, so they can see the difference between Satan and God and choose God. I am sending you to present my offer of sins forgiven, a place in the family of God, and an invitation into the life of those made right by faith in Me.” 19 What could I do, King Agrippa? I couldn’t walk away from a heavenly vision like that. 20 I went first to Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles. I announced this life-changing news if they will just repent and turn to God and then they can start living this new life every day. 21 It is because of all this that the Jews grabbed me in the temple and tried to kill me. 22 But God has stood by me and been my help so that I am standing here as a witness to the small and the great. Everything I am saying is completely in line with what the prophets and Moses said would come: 23 First, the Messiah would suffer and die. Second, He would be raised from the dead to light the way for his own people and all the world.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. How do you think the Apostle Paul felt as he stood before King Agrippa? Has there been a time in your life when you were under pressure and a lot was resting on what you said or did? What happened?

2. In your mind what would have been important to say if you were in Paul’s position? From what he says what do you think was important to Paul? Why?

3. In Paul’s story he is honest about his struggles (persecuting the church). Why might the willingness to share your struggles in your journey with Jesus be important when sharing your story with others?

4. When did you first realize God had placed a call on your life? What happened?

5. Who might God be calling you to share your story with? Are you praying for an opportunity to share?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Praise the Lord for the new life that He has given.

\*Pray that He will give you an opportunity to share your story with someone (daily).

\*Thank the Lord for opening the way into radical new life for all who will trust Him.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Paul is in a precarious position. His life depends on what he says and he chooses to share his journey of faith. Will you be willing to share your journey of faith with those the Lord brings into your life?