

Daily Morning Message

St Paul United Church of Christ

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Allen M Fluent, Pastor

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings
Psalm 69:1-5
Exodus 30:22-38
Acts 22:2-16

Today's Scripture Verse: "Brothers and fathers, listen to the defense that I now make before you." When they heard him addressing them in Hebrew, they became even more quiet. Then he said, "I am a Jew born in Tarsus in Cilicia, but brought up in this city at the feet of Gamaliel, educated strictly according to our ancestral law, being zealous for God, just as all of you are today." (Acts 22:1-3)

What it means: It is a well-known principle of persuasion that people are much more likely to be convinced by what someone has to say if they believe the speaker is very much like them. Here, Paul makes sure his Jewish listeners know his orthodox Jewish background as he tries to persuade them about Jesus. The passage also reminds us that being "zealous about God" is not always a good thing, when it leads to the persecution of others.

Our time of prayer: Gracious God, temper our zeal with an eagerness to understand what others may feel or think. Grant us open minds and hearts, so that the new things you are doing in our midst can be seen by us.

