

# Acts 21:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as Paul was to be led into the castle, he said unto the chief captain, May I speak unto thee? Who said, Canst thou speak Greek?

## Analysis

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Paul's question in Greek - 'May I speak unto thee?' - surprised the Roman commander who assumed he was dealing with an uneducated troublemaker. Paul's cultured Greek immediately changed the commander's perception, opening an opportunity for witness. This demonstrates how God-given education and cultural literacy can create opportunities for gospel advance.

## Historical Context

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Educated Greeks were respected in the Roman world. Paul's ability to speak cultured Greek (and later Hebrew, Acts 21:40) revealed his sophisticated background and distinguished him from common revolutionaries.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How can you use your education and cultural competencies as opportunities for gospel witness?

2. What does Paul's use of appropriate language teach about contextualizing communication for different audiences?

## Interlinear Text

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Μέλλων	τε	εἰσάγεσθαι	εἰς	ὁ	παρεμβολὴν	ὁ	Παῦλος
<b>was to be</b>	<b>And</b>	<b>led</b>	<b>into</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>the castle</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>as Paul</b>
G3195	G5037	G1521	G1519	G3588	G3925	G3588	G3972
λέγει	ὁ	χιλιάρχῳ	Εἰ	ἔξεστίν	μοι	εἰπεῖν	τι
<b>he said</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>unto the chief captain</b>	<b>May</b>	G1832	<b>I</b>	<b>speak</b>	G5100
G3004	G3588	G5506	G1487		G3427	G2036	
πρὸς	σέ	ὁ	δὲ	ἔφη	Ἑλληνιστὶ	γινώσκεις	
<b>unto</b>	<b>thee</b>	<b>Who</b>	G1161	<b>said</b>	<b>Greek</b>	<b>Canst thou speak</b>	
G4314	G4571	G3588		G5346	G1676	G1097	

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