



Acts: Paul & Agrippa

Nov 15

INTRODUCTION: Paul has been in prison in Caesarea for 2 years. The new governor, Festus, has been trying to figure out what to do with him. Paul has now appealed his case to the highest court, Caesar. Festus asked Herod Agrippa II, a Jew, to cross-examine Paul so he would have something to write to the Emperor. Part way through Paul's testimony Agrippa interrupts Paul.

KEY POINT: appealing, Gospel, witness, defence, convincing

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 25:13–27, Paul before Agrippa)

- Recount the scene of this sermon?
- How did Paul bring clarity to confusion, challenge commitment to the curious and show courage rather than cowardice?
- What would this look like in our context?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Acts 26:1–18, Paul's Testimony)

- What does Luke teach us about the place of testimony?
- Why does Paul emphasize his call to ministry here?
- How does the Gospel and Paul's conversion teach of true converting faith?

READ: Acts 26:19–32

QUESTIONS:

1. V. 19- *Up to this point Paul has been addressing Agrippa in a rather general way. What does he do now?*
2. **V. 20b- How is this verse such a helpful and basic rendering of the Gospel?**
3. *The Gospel is a message to “turn and trust,” to repent of sin and turn to God believing in Jesus’ death and resurrection as the only basis of salvation (v. 23).*
4. Why must we persevere in the faith to prove its genuineness (v. 20b)?

5. V. 21- Why might the Jews have hated Paul because of this message?
6. V. 22- What did Paul have that enabled him to stand before such a grand assembly and speak with such boldness?
7. **Read this promise, Lk 12:11. Ought we to fear?**
8. *“Here I stand.” Martin Luther said words similar to Paul at the Diet of Worms when charged by the Catholics, Reflect.¹*
9. *Paul was accused of leading a new sect. However, he was simply believing the hope of the Old Testament had been fulfilled in Christ. Read Isaiah 53:4 (suffering servant), Isa 52:13, 53:12 (a risen saviour) and Isa 42:6, 49:6 (a saviour for all). How do these verses confirm Jesus as the Christ?*
10. Luther had said, “We teach no new thing, but we repeat and establish old things.” How is Christianity old?
[interruption—imagine the high drama, the Apostle, on the bench, speaks to the King!]
11. **V. 24–25- Why did Festus think Paul was out of his mind? What about today? Yet what was Paul's response?**
12. **How do we see Paul's heart? Do we share his heart?**
13. **Paul is not simply passive but active. Do we tend to be passive or active in speaking of our faith? Is there a time for both?**
14. **V. 26–27- What did Agrippa know, through Paul and beforehand, that led Paul to press him? (e.g. “corner”)**
15. **Vv. 28–29- Do we seek to persuade all and desire all people would become Christians?**
16. Aside from hearing enough to make a judgement, how might Agrippa have been like Felix in Acts 24:25?
17. V. 31- Just like Felix and Festus what is decided?
18. After 3 trials what have we learned of Paul as a defendant and as a witness?

NEXT: Nov 22- Acts 28:1–10, Paul on Malta

¹“Since Your Majesty and your lordships desire a simple reply, I will answer. Unless I am convinced by Scripture and by plain Reason -- and not by Popes and Councils who have so often contradicted themselves -- my conscience is captive to the Word of God. To go against conscience is neither right nor safe. I cannot and I will not recant. Here I stand. I can do no other. God help me.”