

Power to Witness in Word and Deed —Part 2

The Book of Acts
Acts 25:13 – 26:32

Review Acts 25:1-12. Read Acts 25:13-27.

1. King Agrippa (son of King Herod in Acts 12) and his sister, Bernice, arrive in Caesarea to greet the newly appointed governor, Festus. Finding an opportunity to speak privately with the king, Festus discusses his handling of Paul's case (vv. 14b-21).
 - a. As far as Festus can determine, what is the real issue between Paul and his accusers? (vv. 18-19)
 - b. Festus has a dilemma. He sees that Paul has "done nothing deserving of death" (v. 25), but, because of Paul's appeal to Caesar, must write up a report of the case for the emperor. How can conferring with this Jewish king, Agrippa, be helpful? (vv. 20a; Acts 26:3a, 26-27)

Read Acts 26:1-11.

2. Bound in chains, Paul addresses the king (vv. 2-3), then begins his defense with some personal history. How does he describe himself prior to his experience on the road to Damascus? (vv. 4-5; 9-11)

What is he trying to establish about himself? (📖* Acts 22:3-5; Gal. 1:13-14; Phil. 3:5-6)

3. Paul says he is on trial "because of [his] hope in what God promised our fathers" (v. 6). What is the promise that the "twelve tribes [were] hoping to see fulfilled" (v. 7)? (Consider Gen. 3:15; Is. 9:6-7; and Ezek. 37:24-26.)

What was the surprising part that they did not anticipate and could not accept? (vv. 8, 22b-23)

Read Acts 26:12-18.

4. Having been commissioned by the chief priests (v. 10), Paul set out to persecute Christians in Damascus.
 - a. Why did Jesus appear to Paul? (v. 16b)
 - b. What did Jesus promise to do for him? (v. 17a)
 - c. What would Jesus do through his servant Paul? (v. 18a)
 - d. What would result from Paul's ministry? (v. 18b)

*The 📖 symbol indicates verses for further study.

Read Acts 26:19-32.

5. Paul was zealous both before (vv. 9-11) and after (vv. 19-20) his experience on the way to Damascus. What changed Saul, a man who was “breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples” (9:1) into Paul, the courageous apostle now standing before King Agrippa? (vv. 15-16a; 25:19b)
6. As the hearing before Agrippa proceeds, how is Paul fulfilling his calling from God? (Acts 9:15; v. 22a)
7. Why does Festus interrupt Paul’s defense? (v. 24; Consider 1 Cor. 1:21-25.)

How does Paul respond to Festus’ accusations? (v. 25)

After the interruption, how does Paul seek to re-engage Agrippa? (vv. 26-27)

What does King Agrippa’s response to Paul tell you about him? (v. 28)

8. What is Paul’s deep desire for the king and all those who have heard his defense? (v. 29)
9. In his defense before Festus and Agrippa, Paul tells about his encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus and the transformation that followed. Why do you think he chooses to defend himself in this way?
10. How were you transformed by your initial encounter with Jesus?

How is Jesus continuing to change you?

Pray for an opportunity to share your story of encounter and transformation with someone this week.