

**ALMOST PERSUADED...**  
**Acts 25:13-26:32 / July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

<sup>13</sup> A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to (Porcius) Festus. <sup>14</sup> Since they were spending many days there, Festus discussed Paul's case with the king. He said: "There is a man here whom Felix left as a prisoner. <sup>15</sup> When I went to Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him and asked that he be condemned... <sup>17</sup> When they came here with me, I did not delay the case, but convened the court the next day and ordered the man to be brought in. <sup>18</sup> When his accusers got up to speak, they did not charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. <sup>19</sup> Instead, they had some points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive. <sup>20</sup> I was at a loss how to investigate such matters; so I asked if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem and stand trial there on these charges. <sup>21</sup> But when Paul made his appeal to be held over for the Emperor's decision, I ordered him held until I could send him to Caesar." <sup>22</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man myself." He replied, "Tomorrow you will hear him." Acts 25:13-22

<sup>23</sup> The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high-ranking military officers and the prominent men of the city. At the command of Festus, Paul was brought in...<sup>25</sup> I found he had done nothing deserving of death, but because he made his appeal to the Emperor I decided to send him to Rome. <sup>26</sup> But I have nothing definite to write to His Majesty about him. Therefore I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that as a result of this investigation I may have something to write. <sup>27</sup> For I think it is unreasonable to send a prisoner on to Rome without specifying the charges against him." Acts 25:23-27

- **Paul's Leverages His DEFENSE Into An Opportunity.**

... So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense: <sup>2</sup> "King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews, <sup>3</sup> and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently. Acts 26:1-3

**Peter said:** ...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. 1 Peter 3:15-17

- **Paul's Life BEFORE Conversion.** Acts 26:4-12

- **Paul's Life DURING Conversion.** Acts 26:13-18

<sup>17</sup> I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.' Acts 26:17-18

- **Paul's Life AFTER Conversion.** Acts 26:19-23

<sup>20</sup> First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. Acts 26:0

**KEY:** Paul Points to JESUS: Death, Burial, Resurrection.

- **Responses To The Gospel: Believe, Plant A Seed, Or REJECT.**

<sup>24</sup> At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane." <sup>25</sup> "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. <sup>26</sup> The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. Acts 26:24-26

<sup>18</sup> For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate." 1 Corinthians 1:18-19

<sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do." <sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?" <sup>29</sup> Paul replied, "Short time or long—I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains." Acts 26:24-29

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

2 Corinthians 6:2

**KEY:** Paul did NOT avoid speaking the God's Truth – even in Chains!