



Lesson 38 – “Almost Thou Persuadest Me”

Based on Acts 25:13 – 26:32

Paul had appealed to Caesar, and Festus could not do otherwise than send him to Rome. But some time passed before a suitable ship could be found; and as other prisoners were to be sent with Paul, the consideration of their cases also occasioned delay. This gave Paul opportunity to present the reasons of his faith before the principal men of Caesarea, and also before King Agrippa II, the last of the Herods.

1) How does our lesson begin today?

Acts 25:13-15 And after certain days king Agrippa and _____ came unto Caesarea to salute Festus. And when they had been there many days, Festus declared Paul's _____ unto the king, saying, There is a certain man left in bonds by Felix: About whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews informed me, desiring to have _____ against him.

He outlined the circumstances that led to the prisoner's appeal to Caesar, telling of Paul's recent trial before him, and saying that the Jews had brought against Paul no accusation such as he had supposed they would bring.

2) What were the charges against Paul?

Acts 25:19 But had certain questions against him of their own _____, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.

3) How did Agrippa respond to the story he was told?

Acts 25:22 Then Agrippa said unto Festus, I would also _____ the man myself. To morrow, said he, thou shalt hear him.

4) What did the next day look like?

Acts 25:23 And on the morrow, when Agrippa was come, and Bernice, with great _____, and was entered into the place of hearing, with the chief captains, and principal men of the city, at Festus' commandment Paul was brought forth.

In honor of his visitors, Festus had sought to make this an occasion of imposing display. The rich robes of the procurator and his guests, the swords of the soldiers, and the gleaming armor of their commanders, lent brilliancy to the scene.

The aged prisoner, chained to his soldier guard, had in his appearance nothing that would lead the world to pay him homage. Yet in this man, apparently without friends or wealth or position, and held a prisoner for his faith in the Son of God, all heaven was interested. Angels were his attendants. Had the glory of one of those shining messengers flashed forth, the pomp and pride of royalty would have paled; king and courtiers would have been stricken to the earth, as were the Roman guards at the sepulcher of Christ.

5) What did Festus say to the assembled crowd?

Acts 25:24-25 And Festus said, King Agrippa, and all men which are here present with us, ye see this man, about whom all the multitude of the Jews have dealt with me, both at Jerusalem, and also here, crying that he ought not to _____ any longer. But when I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death, and that he himself hath appealed to Augustus, I have determined to _____ him.



Acts 25:26-27 Of whom I have no certain thing to _____ unto my lord. Wherefore I have brought him forth before you, and specially before thee, O king Agrippa, that, after examination had, I might have somewhat to write. For it seemeth to me unreasonable to send a prisoner, and not withal to signify the _____ laid against him.

6) What did Agrippa do?

Acts 26:1 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Thou art permitted to _____ for thyself. Then Paul stretched forth the hand, and answered for himself:

The apostle was not disconcerted by the brilliant display or the high rank of his audience; for he knew of how little worth are worldly wealth and position. Earthly pomp and power could not for a moment daunt his courage or rob him of his self-control.

7) What did Paul tell Agrippa and the others?

Acts 26:2-3 I think myself happy, king Agrippa, because I shall answer for _____ this day before thee touching all the things whereof I am accused of the Jews: Especially because I know thee to be _____ in all customs and questions which are among the Jews: wherefore I beseech thee to hear me patiently.

8) What was Paul's testimony?

Acts 26:4-5 My manner of _____ from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; Which knew me from the beginning, if they would _____, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.

Acts 26:6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the _____ made of God unto our fathers:

With clearness and power Paul outlined before Agrippa the leading events connected with the life of Christ on earth. He testified that the Messiah of prophecy had already appeared in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. He showed how the Old Testament Scriptures had declared that the Messiah was to appear as a man among men, and how in the life of Jesus had been fulfilled every specification outlined by Moses and the prophets. For the purpose of redeeming a lost world, the divine Son of God had endured the cross, despising the shame, and had ascended to heaven triumphant over death and the grave.

9) What question did he lay at the feet of Agrippa?

Acts 26:8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should _____ the dead?

10) What did Paul tell the assembled crowd later?

Acts 26:12-13 Whereupon as I went to _____ with authority and commission from the chief priests, At midday, O king, I saw in the way a _____ from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

11) Who was it?

Acts 26:14-15 And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a _____ speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am _____ whom thou persecutest.



12) What did Jesus have to tell him?

Acts 26:16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a _____ and a _____ both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Acts 26:18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from _____ to _____, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

13) Paul stopped and looked directly at Agrippa, what did he say?

Acts 26:19-20 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was _____ unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should _____ and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

14) Paul told him the real reason he was in chains, what was it?

Acts 26:21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to _____ me.

Acts 26:22-23 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the _____ and _____ did say should come: That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew _____ unto the _____, and to the Gentiles.

The whole company had listened spellbound to Paul's account of his wonderful experiences. The apostle was dwelling upon his favorite theme. None who heard him could doubt his sincerity.

15) Who interjected the scene?

Acts 26:24 And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee _____.

16) How did Paul reply?

Acts 26:25-26 But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of _____ and soberness. For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are _____ from him; for this thing was not done in a corner.

17) Under the direction of Holy Spirit, what did Paul ask Agrippa?

Acts 26:27 King Agrippa, _____ thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

Deeply affected, Agrippa for the moment lost sight of his surroundings and the dignity of his position.

18) What did Agrippa say, almost involuntarily?

Acts 26:28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a _____.

19) Paul didn't miss a beat, what did he reply?

Acts 26:29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these _____.



Festus, Agrippa, and Bernice might in justice have worn the fetters that bound the apostle. All were guilty of grievous crimes. These offenders had that day heard the offer of salvation through the name of Christ. One, at least, had been almost persuaded to accept the grace and pardon offered. But Agrippa put aside the proffered mercy, refusing to accept the cross of a crucified Redeemer.

20) Having their curiosity satisfied, what did they do?

Acts 26:30 And when he had thus spoken, the king _____, and the governor, and Bernice, and they that sat with them:

21) What did they discuss among themselves?

Acts 26:31 And when they were gone aside, they talked between themselves, saying, This man doeth _____ worthy of death or of bonds.

Acts 26:32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto _____.

The case had been referred to that higher tribunal, and it was now beyond the jurisdiction of either Festus or Agrippa. Paul will head to Rome.

Can you see Paul was very plain in his testimony?

Would you like to have the faith to stand the test?

When is the time to watch and pray?