

On Trial before the King

Acts 26:1-29

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Main Characters: Paul, Governor Festus, King Agrippa II, and King Jesus

Background is important: **Acts 25:13-27**

Gov. Festus: "...*they had some points of dispute about their own religion and **about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive.***"

Trial #1: Paul appears before King Agrippa (Acts 26:1-8)

Paul's defense wasn't a defense in the narrow sense of the word – his agenda was far greater than that.

- *Herod who?*

Paul was on trial because of his hope and belief in the resurrected Christ.

Trial #2: Paul appears before King Jesus (Acts 26:9-18)

Paul could identify with his accusers.

A greater authority confronted Paul.
Persecution of the church = persecution of Christ

- **Paul receives a direct commission from the King of Kings!**

In one instant everything changed

- **Paul obeys the call he receives**

Verses 19-20

The Bible is always concerned that we have genuine faith that leads to genuine life-change.

Do you know this message well enough to speak it?

- The Christ would suffer - Isaiah 53:4
- The Christ would rise from the dead – Isaiah 52:12; 53:12
- The Christ would proclaim light to his own people (the Jews) and to the Gentiles (the non-Jews) – Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47 --- consider Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47

Trial #3: King Agrippa appears before King Jesus (Acts 26:24-28)

Has anyone ever yelled this at you: *“You are out of your mind...(and) insane!”*

Men in every generation put the resurrection on trial and fail to see that they themselves are the one’s on trial.

Whoever we stand before is put on trial by the gospel we preach.

Verse 28 - *“Do you think...you can persuade me?”*

It can be difficult to see how an event like this (the resurrection) can or should effect our daily lives.

Timothy Keller: Sometimes people approach me and say, “I really struggle with this aspect of Christian teaching. I like this part of Christian belief, but I don’t think I can accept that part.” I usually respond: “If Jesus rose from the dead, then you have to accept all he said; if he didn’t rise from the dead, then why worry about any of what he said? The issue on which everything hangs is not whether or not you like his teaching but whether or not he rose from the dead.” That is how the first hearers felt who heard reports of the resurrection. They knew that if it was true it meant we can’t live our lives any way we want. It also meant we don’t have to be afraid of anything, not Roman swords, not cancer, nothing, If Jesus rose from the dead, it changes everything.

A resurrection-centered view of reality

- 1 Corinthians 15:12-21

Trial #4: King Jesus appeared before God the Father (Acts 26:29)

Our greatest need is to be rescued from God.

Because the resurrection of Jesus is the *only* hope of *true freedom*, we must boldly, fearlessly and compassionately tell others about it.

- Verse 29 - The heart cry of a truly free man

Drawing Lines

Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.

- What does Acts 26 teach us about Jesus? Can you find one thing in particular that stood out to you regarding Jesus plan of salvation for lost sinners?
- Can you describe the gospel message by only using the Old Testament? What passages of scripture would you turn to first? What stories speak of the sacrifice Jesus accomplished?
- Why is the resurrection the "cornerstone" of our faith? How does the resurrection effect our day to day living?
- How do the truths of Acts 26 help us evangelize? What kind of confidence should we have when sharing our faith? Why?
- What did Daryn mean when he said, "*Whoever we stand before is put on trial by the gospel we preach...whoever we speak the truth of the gospel to is brought before King Jesus?*"
- Think about the last time you spoke the gospel to someone. Was it a "success"? Why or why not?
- Where did Paul's wonderful combination of boldness and compassion come from? How can we grow in these two areas?