

3rd Wednesday Evangelism Series: The Unstoppable Power of God (part 3)

On Trial Before the King Acts 26:1-29

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

Background: 25:13-27

On one side: Picture “red carpet” - “the paparazzi taking photos”

On the other side: Paul

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

Paul considered himself *fortunate* to stand before this king and make his defense.

It truly was all “***about a dead man named Jesus who Paul claimed was alive.***”

- The promise was that of a coming Messiah and His Kingdom – a Savior – a deliverer...

Paul’s main point in his ministry was that Jesus’ resurrection by God validates his claims.

Trial #2: Paul before King Jesus (26:9-14)

Paul attacked the Christians with the authority and commission of the chief priests...until a greater authority confronted him.

In one instant everything changed. Everything he was living for prior to that made him sick to think about. Jesus had completely invaded his life and redefined Paul’s life story – Jesus had become the main character, the central figure; the Savior Paul had tried so hard to deny!

Paul was telling his story – you need to tell *your* story.

Your testimony alone is *not* the gospel, but it IS the fruit of the gospel and should always include the gospel.

Paul obeyed the call he received

Are you obeying the call you have received?

What situation are you in right now that you won't always be in? Who's in your life that you won't always be around?

Don't always look for a better situation – ask God to use you now – right where you are!

- **Tell people with joy**
- **Tell people with urgency**

Show that your life has been ransacked by the gospel.

Could you show, by use of the Old Testament, where the Scriptures speak of Jesus?

- The Christ would suffer – that is die – this was a testimony to the atoning work of Christ - 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) – this happened through witnesses like Paul and still happens today through witnesses like you! Isaiah 42:6; 49:6; Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47 --- consider Luke 2:32; Acts 13:47
- The OT is filled with promises, foreshadows, types, and prophecies fulfilled in Christ Jesus. **Consider Luke 24:13-49.**

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

Is Paul insane in the membrane?

The resurrection confronts each of us.

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

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

When boldness and compassion meet - when a fire in our heart for the glorious truth of the Gospel is combined with brokenness for the lost, we *will* speak up.

Sharing the gospel is the most loving thing we could ever do for someone.

Meaning, reality, love, truth, identity – all of these things are found *in Christ*.

We’ve been commissioned to be Christ’s *servant and witness*.

Don’t walk away from this scene and say, *“cool story.”*