

V. The Truth that We Must Face (26:22-32)

- A. Past testimony morphs into present proclamation.
 - i. Isaiah 53
 - ii. Isaiah 42:6-9; Isaiah 49:6
 - iii. Hosea 6:1-2
- B. Festus interrupts (24)
- C. Agrippa doesn't have the same response. (25-27)
- D. How long does it take to become a Christian? (28-29)

LIVE THE STORY

*The Gospel is intended to be learned and lived in community.
The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups
as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.*

- Despite Paul's evident confidence, he surely faced fears and doubts in private. What fears might you face in a situation like this? How can you remain faithful as a witness?
- In Acts 25, which commandment do the Jewish leaders break in their pursuit of persecuting Paul as one who was *against the law*? How might Romans 2:17-24 speak to this?
- Why is Acts 25:9 important for us to understand what was really going on with Paul's appeal to Rome?
- What was the hope from the prophets does Paul say the people of Israel waited for (26:6-8)? How does Paul make the connection from the prophets to the events of Jesus' life (26:23)?
- Festus mocked Paul (likely because of his use of the scriptures). What should we learn from Paul's response to this? How might people today mock messengers as Festus did?
- How is the Lord calling you to be a faithful witness right now?

Ambushed

Jerry Cisar — February 15, 2015

Text: Acts 25–26

Introduction: Paul the Faithful Witness

- A. Paul is the only honest man in the story.
- B. Paul undoubtedly faced fears, doubts, and anxieties concerning whether or not the lies would triumph.

I. The Lies that Tried to Ambush Paul (25:1-12)

- A. Festus the New Governor (1-3)
- B. Festus' shrewd answer (4-5)
- C. The same false charges we learned of before Felix (6-8)
- D. Paul's appeal to Caesar (9-12)
 - i. Festus' motive
 - a) Proverbs 17:7
 - b) Proverbs 29:26
 - ii. Paul's trip to Rome wasn't because he prematurely appealed to Rome, but because he outwitted the wicked plots of the Jews and the corrupt Roman governor.

II. The Powers that Stood Before Paul (25:13-27)

A. Paul stands before governor Festus and King Agrippa. (13)

- i. "Agrippa and Bernice arrived"

- ii. Agrippa: a major power-broker with the Jews

- iii. Agrippa's family line

B. Festus' account of the story to Agrippa (14-21)

Tannehill: *Festus makes his proposal appear to be the reasonable action of a judge in a difficult case; the narrator told us that it was the biased act of an unjust judge.*

C. Setting the Scene (22-27)

III. The Truth that Paul Opposed (26:1-14)

A. Paul's testimony to Agrippa (1-3)

B. Paul's manner of life before becoming a Christian (4-5)

C. The hope of Israel as they worshiped God day and night? (6-8)

i. The promise throughout the prophets that, though God had exiled Israel and the nation was dead, that He will one day resurrect them, and that would come when the Messiah comes and reigns.

ii. It is because of this hope that Paul is being accused!

iii. Paul is proclaiming that Messiah has come; that this resurrected Israel began when the Messiah they crucified was raised from the dead; and that all who believe in Him are raised in Him as that resurrected Israel and therefore will be raised to eternal life.

D. Paul actually confesses to his own guilt. (9-11)

i. Acts 9:2

ii. It is possible that Paul is implicating that his accusers were actually circumventing Roman law, attempting to illegally put people to death.

E. A Successful Ambush (12-14)

F. Who ambushed Paul on the road to Damascus? The Truth Jesus the Messiah promised, crucified, buried, raised to life!

IV. The Truth that Ambushed Paul (26:15-21)

A. *Who are you, Lord?*

B. Paul rescued from darkness, from the power of Satan while on that road, now he will serve Jesus rather than persecute Him. (16-18)

i. Now Paul will need another kind of rescue...

ii. Both the Gentiles and the Jews can become part of the saints—the holy people of God through faith in Jesus.

C. Paul's obedience to the vision led to this day. (19-21)