

Paul's Astounding Address to Agrippa

Acts 26:2-29

Paul's Astounding Address to Agrippa

- What is unique about this sermon of Paul?
 - How to preach to the powerful,
 - How to answer feedback from an unfriendly audience,
 - How to preach to someone who can make or ruin your future.

The Audience

- Agrippa II
 - Son of Herod Agrippa I, who beheaded James - Acts 12:1-23
 - 7th and last king of the line of Herod the Great
 - Originally named Marcus Julius Agrippa, raised and educated in the court of Claudius Caesar

The Audience

- Bernice
 - Sister to Drusilla and Agrippa II, sister in law to Antonio Felix governor of Judea
 - She was first married to Marcus Alexander, then was married to her uncle Herod king of Chalis until he died, then married Polemon, king of Pontus and Cilicia; she soon left him, and began an incestuous relationship with Agrippa II, and later became mistress to Titus, Caesar of Rome

The Audience

- Porcius Festus
 - Roman governor who succeeded Antonio Felix and inherited all of the problems he left behind
 - Festus was less refined and more arrogant than Felix
- Others
 - Chiliarchs - the commanders of a thousand men
 - The civil officials who controlled commerce and held local offices

The Setting

- Festus described Paul's case to Agrippa.
 - Acts 25:14-21
- Agrippa wanted to hear Paul.
 - Acts 25:21-27

The Sermon

- Paul's introductory remarks, courtesy to Agrippa.
 - Acts 26:1-3
- Paul reviewed his early life to set a context.
 - Acts 26:4-11
- Paul recounted events on the road to Damascus.
 - Acts 26:12-18
- Paul's conclusion and application.
 - Acts 26:19-23

The Response

- Festus called Paul mad.
 - Acts 26:24-26
- Agrippa was almost persuaded.
 - Acts 26:27-29
- Paul was almost released.
 - Acts 26:30-32

The Point

- Why was Agrippa moved to respond this way?
 - v. 25 - Paul's respect, courtesy, character
 - v. 26 - The Gospel was not “done in a corner”
 - v. 27 - Agrippa knew the OT scriptures
 - v. 27 - Paul's love and zeal for souls

The Point

- The “almost Christian” is not yet saved.
- One might go quite far toward salvation and still not be saved.
 - The mind may recognize the truth of the Gospel.
 - The conscience may be stirred with fear.
 - The will may be inclined to yield.

The Point

- The “almost Christian” is not yet saved.
 - But he is not saved until he bodily and from the heart obeys the Gospel.
 - Rom. 6:17-18 - “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. 18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”