

Building the Church

Acts 25-26

Lesson 17

OBSERVATION: Read Acts 25-26

1. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. Make your own list of key words and mark each one in a distinctive way

PAUL APPEALS TO CAESAR: Read Acts 25:1-12

1. Two years after Paul's arrest, the high priest and the chief men of the Jews were still intent to kill Paul. Festus had replaced Felix. What similar statement (Acts 25:5) did he make to them that Felix made (Acts 23:35)?
2. The Jews came down from Jerusalem and laid many serious complaints against Paul. What are we told about these complaints at the end of verse 7?
3. What was Paul's response to their accusations? Verse 8
4. What similar accusation was made against Jesus? John 19:12
5. Acts 25:9 reveals that Festus suffered from the same problem as Felix. What was it?

- a. In an effort to do the Jews a favor, Festus asked Paul if he was willing to go up to Jerusalem to be judged. Using verse 10, 11 summarize Paul's response.

- b. Festus complied with Paul's appeal. What did he say? Verse 12

PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA: Read Acts 25:13-27

1. Before Festus could send Paul to Rome, he had some visitors. Who were they?

2. Festus shared with King Agrippa his predicament with Paul. Using verses 14-21, record some of his main points.

3. King Agrippa expressed his desire to hear the man (Paul) himself. The next day, who was present to hear Paul? Verse 23
 - a. It seems incredible that all of this pomp and ceremony was because of one little Jewish man who preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Record the promise of Acts 9:15.

 - b. If you were Paul, how might the remembrance of this promise encourage you?

 - c. What are some promises that we can remind ourselves of when we are falsely accused and facing unjust reprisals?

4. Summarize Festus' statements he expressed in verses 24-27.

PAUL'S LIFE BEFORE HE MET JESUS: Read Acts 26:1-11

1. King Agrippa permitted Paul to speak for himself. What was Paul's response?
verse 2
 - a. Why do you think Paul would have been happy to answer for himself?
 - b. In what ways might you benefit from applying Paul's attitude?
 - c. Record Paul's words from 1 Corinthians 9:16. What is it like to have something burning in you that you can't ignore?
2. According to Acts 26:3, what did Paul know about King Agrippa?
 - a. What might be the benefit of knowing Jewish customs?
3. Read verses 4-11 and briefly describe Paul's life before meeting Jesus.
4. Paul mentioned the hope of the promise made to his fathers in verses 6, 7. Using verse 8, what is the promise Paul spoke of?
 - a. How does that promise minister to you?
5. Record the question posed in Acts 26:8?

- a. What belief or disbelief hindered you from believing God's plan of salvation for you?
 - b. In one or two sentences, describe your transformation after you believed.
6. *Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth (Acts 26:9).* What did Jesus declare would happen in John 16:2?
- a. Why would they do this? John 16:3
 - b. Notice, the Jews claimed to know the Father, but rejected Jesus. Jesus declared this was not true. Why can a person not know God if she doesn't know Jesus? Challenge: Use Scripture to support your answer.
 - c. Consider Paul's strong feelings and misperceptions. How can a person feel so strongly about something and yet be wrong?

PAUL'S TESTIMONY OF MEETING JESUS: Read Acts 26:12-18

1. Paul began verse 12 with the words while I was thus occupied. Although Paul was obsessed with doing many things contrary to the name of Jesus, Jesus was still able to penetrate his misperceptions. What did Paul see at midday?
 - a. The sun at midday in Israel can be very bright. But, a brighter light appeared to Paul. What do we learn about light from the following verses?
 - John 1:4,5
 - John 8:12

- Revelation 21:23
- b. In what ways has Jesus shined light into your life?
2. Paul then heard the voice of Jesus (verse 15). What question did Jesus ask Paul (Saul) in verse 14?
 - a. Using Matthew 25:42-45, explain how a person can harm or help another and personally affect Jesus.
 - b. What statement did Jesus make to Paul in Acts 26:14? Challenge: What did Jesus mean?
3. According to Acts 26:16, why did Jesus appear to Paul
4. Using verses 17 and 18, what does opening our eyes free us from?
 - a. What understanding does 2 Timothy 2:26 give us of what it means to be under the power of Satan?

PAUL'S LIFE AFTER MEETING JESUS: Acts 26:19-23

1. Paul told King Agrippa that he was not disobedient to the heavenly vision. What did he declare to both Jews and Gentiles? Verse 20.
2. Paul was careful to state that he had said no other things than those which the prophets and Moses said would come. According to Acts 26:23, what three specific things did the prophets, Moses, and Paul say?

1)

2)

3)

3. The prophets and Moses declared that the Messiah would come. Paul was declaring that the Messiah had come. They knew very little about what the Messiah would be like. What information would you add to describe Jesus to someone who only had the Old Testament prophecies?

KING AGRIPPA EVADES PAUL'S CHALLENGE: Read Acts 26:24-32

1. Festus wrote Paul off as being mad. Paul did not seem to attempt to convince him otherwise. Rather, he focused his attention on King Agrippa. What question did Paul ask him? Verse 27

2. What does Paul's question reveal about his goal for speaking to King Agrippa?
 - a. What lesson can you learn from this?

 - b. What was King Agrippa's response to Paul's question?

3. Using synonyms, define the word almost.

4. Paul used the word almost in verse 29, but he added another word. Using synonyms, define the word altogether.
 - a. What is the difference between almost becoming a Christian and altogether becoming a Christian?
 - b. What are some reasons a person stops at almost becoming a Christian?
5. If you had been in the crowd that day, what thoughts, fears, or doubts might have been on your mind?
6. Paul desired that King Agrippa and all those who heard him might be like him, except for these chains. Contrast the:
 - a. The physical chains of Paul with the spiritual chains of King Agrippa and those who were listening that day
 - b. The spiritual freedom of Paul and the spiritual freedom of King Agrippa and those who were listening that day
7. Summarize the conversation between Festus, King Agrippa, and Bernice. Acts 26:30-32

REVIEW: Read Acts 26

1. What can we learn from:
 - Paul's life before meeting Jesus?
 - Paul's experience of meeting Jesus?
 - Paul's life after meeting Jesus?
 - King Agrippa's almost decision?

2. What was your favorite part in this lesson? Why?