

ACTS 25

Almost Dangerous

8 Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?

Acts 26:8

Paul's belief in the fact that God can, has, and WILL raise the dead, is the source of his boldness. In our lives when we are called to be as bold we 'Almost' get there. We narrowly miss the mark because too often we forget that God can raise the dead! Instead, we say "People don't change" and go on living in our own 'Christian' bubble separate from the world where we are safe, but we make no real impact. Paul's life was anything but safe, and as a result, he left a HUGE impact on the kingdom. Paul was in prison for dangerously speaking the truth of the Gospel, and now after two years of waiting, he has an audience with the 'King of the Jews' Herod Agrippa II, a client king of Rome. This was not only an opportunity to proclaim the gospel to a ruler in power that could have an amazing effect on the nation of Israel, but would also further his mission to go to Rome. He didn't back down, he didn't pull any punches. He knew his audience and went straight for the jugular. As King Agrippa pulled back and resisted the message it may have been that he was resisting the voice of the Holy Spirit to spark such a prideful response. In verse 28 Agrippa interrupted him. "Do you think you can persuade me to become a Christian so quickly?" (NLT) He clearly thought himself someone who could never be convinced of anything. He was the King. The author of his own destiny. Sound like someone you know? We've asked before and we will ask again. What makes Paul any different than you or I? Each of us has a calling and a purpose in the body of Christ right? What prevents us from living out that call BOLDLY?

We would do well to remember that our role on earth is to be obedient and speak the truth. It's not our job to be the Holy Spirit and convince them of the truth. So when we speak we can be bold knowing that we aren't speaking alone and that God can raise the dead.

Read Acts 26 together. How would you feel if you were given the opportunity Paul had here? (Discuss the weight, excitement, and potential impact of the opportunity.)

Discussion Questions

1. What are some ways that we put God in a box? How do we take God out of the box and put Him back on the throne of our lives?
2. If the intended purpose of our existence is to bring glory to God, how do we accomplish that in our day-to-day lives? How do we avoid praying for our own Glory?
3. Vs 18 speaks of Paul's mission and the mission of every Christian. Where else do you see this command or these themes in scripture?
4. Paul claimed to be saying what the prophets and Moses said would come. How can you use the Old Testament to prove Christ? Why is it important that we don't sugar-coat the gospel?
5. In what ways can you 'never give up' on your mission? The Gospel? Or your unsaved friends and family?