

Lessons From Paul's Sermon To King Agrippa



Acts 26:24-29

Events Leading To Paul's Sermon...

- Acts 21 → Paul's trip and arrival in Jerusalem following the completion of his third journey. The Jews create a stir, seize Paul and begin to beat him. He is taken into custody by the chief captain.
- Acts 22 → Paul begins to make his defense before the people on the steps of the castle. Upon mention of his commission to the Gentiles, he is taken into the castle.
- Acts 23 → Paul's defense before the Jewish council. The meeting breaks up and Paul is once again rescued by the chief captain. 40 men conspire to kill Paul, and he is escorted to Caesarea by a large number of soldiers.
- Acts 24 → Paul before the Roman Governor Antonius Felix, who trembles at Paul's presentation of the gospel, but is covetous and holds Paul for 2 years, He is followed by Porcius Festus.
- Acts 25 → Festus indicates his willingness to turn Paul back to the Jews. Paul appeals to Caesar. Festus enlists the help of King Agrippa in sorting the matter out, so he will have somewhat to write to Caesar.
- Acts 26 → Paul makes his defense. His manner of life, his ministry and motives.
- Lessons for us in his lesson to Agrippa. Paul was a model Christian – encouraged others to follow his example. (I Cor. 11:1; Phil. 4:9)

Background

- Paul, is introduced as Saul in Acts 7, as he tends the coats of those who stoned Stephen to death, and the leader of the persecution against the church in Acts 8.
- We see his conversion in Acts 9.
- And from Acts 11 to the end, his work in the gospel is the focus of the book, and we cannot help but be impressed as we look at the life of a man who has walked in the steps of Jesus.
 - I Cor. 11:1
 - Phil. 4:9

Background

- Interesting parallel between the steps that took Jesus to Jerusalem and those that took Paul.
 - Jesus in Lk. 9:50-51 set his face to go to Jerusalem.
 - He told his disciples that he would be delivered to be tried, crucified and be raised from the dead. The apostles did not understand and urged him not to go. When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He is seized by the Jews and delivered to the Gentiles. (Romans)
 - Paul headed to Jerusalem with a contribution for the poor saints. He is told by the Spirit, Agabus the prophet that bonds and afflictions awaited him there. He is encouraged by his friends not to go. But determined to finish his ministry, he goes, is seized by the Jews, delivered to the Gentiles, tried and ...now we see him giving his defense.
- Lesson: 4 things that we see in Paul's speech that are helpful for us today. We see Paul as a model Christian.
 - If not a Christian, here is the life expected.
 - If a Christian, self-examination is in order.

Saul Was Sincere...

- Acts 26:4 → 4 My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews;
 - Paul's life had always been characterized by sincerity. (Acts 22:3; 23:1; 24:16; 26:9)
 - Paul's life as a Christian was not a matter of casual interest, mild curiosity or just another group to which he belonged, he was true, genuine, focused, and whole-heartedly devoted in his service to God.
 - Knowledge → 26:6,7
 - Faith → 26:8
 - Worship → 24:14
 - Focused service → Phil. 3:13
 - Preaching the gospel → Rom. 10:1-3; 9:1-3

Saul Was Sincere...

- Josh. 24:14 → Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the LORD.
- Heb. 10:22 → “let us draw near with a sincere heart in the assurance that faith brings, because we have had our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water.”

Saul Was Confronted By Jesus...

- Acts 26:12-15 → Whereupon as I went to Damascus with authority and commission from the chief priests, ...I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 15 And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.
- We are confronted with Jesus today through the word of God.
 - What think ye of Christ? (Matt. 22:42)
 - Whom say ye that I am? (Matt. 16:15)
 - Would shall I do with Jesus? (Matt. 27:42)
 - And why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say. (Lk. 6:46)
 - We will be confronted with Jesus in the judgement. (Acts 17:30-31)
- It is hard for you to kick against the pricks. One opposed to Jesus is working against their own spiritual interests...and it only gets worse.
 - In thinking that he was serving God, Saul was actually the enemy of God. (Rom. 5:10; Matt. 10:30)
 - Paul became a servant of Christ. (Acts 26:16; I Cor. 6:19-20; Rom. 6:12-14)

Saul Chose Obedience

- Acts 26:19-20 → Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: 20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.
- The choice to obey involved...
 - Repentance. Saul had to change his life. (Gal. 1:13-14)
 - Sacrifice. (Phil. 3:4-7)
 - Submission to Jesus in his life. (Gal. 2:20)

Paul Stood Firm and Persevered...

- Acts 26:21-23 → 21 For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me. 22 Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day...
 - The Jews tried to put Paul to death for his faith.
 - With God's help, he stood firm and persevered. (II Tim. 4:17-18)
 - The danger of falling.
 - Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. (I Cor. 10:13)
 - Eph. 6:11-14 → Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places]. 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Paul Stood Firm And Persevered

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- 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
- 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
- 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;