

PAUL IN THE PUBLIC EYE – PART 3

ACTS 25:23-26:32

Moving up the ladder of political hierarchy, Paul now speaks to King Agrippa at the theater in Caesarea Maritima.

- The Greek word for “pomp” is *phantasias*, meaning “pageantry” or “outward display” —that of royalty.
- The real royalty in the room was the prisoner, the born-again child of the King of kings.
- ***Was this a crisis or opportunity?*** Your problems may be opportunities in disguise.



Bema or judgement seat at
Caesarea Maritima

PAUL'S EXEMPLARY LIFE ACTS 25:24-27

Festus, like Felix before him, examined Paul closely but could find nothing wrong in his life.

- That's because as a citizen of the Roman Empire, Paul lived with integrity—like Daniel. **DAN. 6:5**
- How would you fare if your life were put under a microscope?
- Would your enemies be able to list various failures, illegalities, and inconsistencies in your life?

PAUL'S DEFENSE: AN UNDENIABLE CHANGE

In his longest speech in the book of Acts, Paul reviewed his well-documented past.

- While containing much of the same information about Paul's conversion in **Chapter 9**, and in his testimony before the Jewish crowd on the steps of the Antonia Fortress in **Chapter 22**, there are a few subtle differences.
- But, no one could deny the change in the tentmaker from Tarsus.

PAUL'S POINTS

- **The Power of God.** In his defense, Paul affirmed the possibility of God raising the dead (**26:8**).
- **Miracles** are not difficult to believe when we accept the premise of an infinite, all-powerful God.
- The **Revealed Word** of the risen Christ to the apostle Paul is the centerpiece of the story.
- Paul, a **Great Communicator**.
- Paul simply tells the world **his story—his testimony**.

EXCUSES STILL ABOUND

- The *Felix Excuse*: “I’m too *involved* in other pursuits to listen to Christ . . . ***IT’S NOT CONVENIENT.***”
- The *Festus Excuse*: “I’m too *intelligent* to listen to Christ . . . ***I’M NOT CONVINCED.***”
- The *Agrippa Excuse*: “I’m too *important* to listen to Christ . . . ***IT DOESN’T CONCERN ME.***”
- But before he left on his all-expenses-paid trip to Rome, Paul got to share his faith in the public square with the most important guys around!