

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS (BBA)

RLJ-1187

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PART 47: A TESTIMONY AND A SERMON

This is an important chapter for all Christians who are insecure about witnessing. This is the greatest inspiration available and the testimony/sermon given by Paul some 1,954 years ago is still good today and will continue to be good until Jesus comes back.

THE AUDIENCE

The people listening were not the typical church congregation but were hostile and looked upon Paul like he was mentally unstable or a political trouble maker.

Among those gathered together were Festus, the skeptical governor, King Agrippa and his spoiled sex craving sister, local political leaders and military officers.

A HOLY SPIRIT BAPTIZED APOSTLE

Paul was a humble man but strong at the same time. **1 Corinthians 2:1-5**

He was homeless and did not have a permanent private dwelling place because he had been on the road for a number of years. His personal possessions consisted of some clothing, shoes and written scrolls. **2 Timothy 4:13**

He was not in possession of any money, silver or gold; nevertheless, Paul was content with his lot. **Philippians 4:10-13**

THE MESSAGE

King Agrippa opened the door for Paul to speak. **Acts 26:1**

Paul began his message and appealed to the positive part of the king's personality and knowledge. Instead of slamming the king for living in incest and being a rotten politician, Paul tried to find a point of connection to convey the Gospel. We should do the same in our approach to people. **verses 2-3**

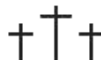
Paul established his Jewish background. **verses 4-5**

Then he brought up the reason for his arrest. **verse 6**

Paul pointed out that Judaism is the faith through which God would send the Messiah. **verse 7**

Paul used King Agrippa as the focus of his speaking, knowing full well that everyone would hear what he said. In doing so he is creating a desire in the rest of the crowd to be included and greatly increased the attention. **verse 8**

Paul confessed that as a Pharisee he did not like Jesus and actively participated in the persecution of His disciples. **verses 9-10**



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Paul revealed that he tortured some of the Christians in order to make them to curse the name of Jesus. **verse 11**

Paul admitted to having been a brutal oppressor and even killed those who confessed Christ. **Acts 8:1-3**

Having laid the foundation, Paul told how he became born again. **Acts 26:12-15**

Paul stated that it was by the authority of Jesus Himself that he was speaking and teaching the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and that he has not been disobedient. **verses 16-19**

He openly confessed where he had been, and it was for his action on behalf of Jesus, the Messiah, that the Jews wanted to kill him. **verses 20-21**

Paul gave glory to God for his protection and at the same time stated that he was only testifying about the Messiah like Moses and the prophets had done. **verses 22-23**

RESPONSE FROM THE AUDIENCE

The Holy Spirit must have been working hard in the audience and it showed first in the reaction of Governor Festus. **verses 24-25**

Paul tried his best to convince King Agrippa to openly believe in Jesus and confess Him as the Messiah. **verses 26-27**

King Agrippa was honest and told the whole audience that he was almost persuaded to believe in Jesus. However, unless Agrippa confessed Jesus at a later time, he has now been in hell for some 1,900 years and regretfully reminded himself countless times that he was almost persuaded to be saved. **verse 28**

Paul gave a general invitation to Christ but the people rejected it and walked out. **verses 29-30**

Festus and Agrippa talked among themselves afterward and came to the conclusion that Paul was innocent and should be released but had to be sent to Rome since he had appealed unto Caesar. **verses 31-32**

CONCLUSION

While Paul has been in heaven for the last 1,900 years, the group he spoke to in the court of Festus have been burning in hell unless some were saved at a later time. What kind of attitude do these people have in hell? Jesus gives us the answer. **Luke 16:19-31**

When you die, who will you join, the Apostle Paul or Festus, Agrippa and the rest of the crowd from the judgment hall? John 14:6

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?