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**RELATED SCRIPTURES**

Acts 21:1 - 26:23 | Romans 1:16-17 | Genesis 15:1-21

**STUDY FOR SERMON FROM 11.12.23**

**SUMMARY**

After Paul made his case before the Roman officials (Festus) and made his appeal to Caesar, King Agrippa and Bernice (sister of the Jewish king) arrived in Caesarea (Acts 25:13). Festus summarized all that had transpired explaining it was the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem who sought to condemn Paul, but explained to them it was not customary according to Roman law to condemn a man without facing his accusers—he arranged for this yet found nothing deserving of death (Acts 25:18). Agrippa and Bernice requested to personally hear from Paul (Acts 25:22). Festus brought Paul before them asking them to detail the capital charge the Jews wished for so he could relay it to Caesar to whom Paul appealed (Acts 25:26). Paul then offered his testimony before Agrippa, noting his innocence, and as he did on other occasions, pointing out their foundational religious commonalities—the “promise made by God to our fathers” (Acts 26:6). Paul appealed to the prophets—whom Agrippa would profess belief in—that “Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles” (Acts 26:23). In explaining this, it was the Roman governor, Festus, who exclaimed that Paul was “out of [his] mind.” Paul then explained his rationale state of mind and that Agrippa was not far from believing the same things Paul testified to, appealing to the same (Old Testament) prophets once again, “do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe” (Acts 26:27). Agrippa was incensed that Paul believed he could be converted in such short order. Paul replied that, by God’s power, everyone within earshot could believe. After Paul’s testimony, both the king and Festus agreed Paul had done nothing deserving of death and might have even been set free had he not invoked his right to be heard before Caesar (Acts 26:31-32).

**GROUP QUESTIONS**

Share something that surprises, encourages, or troubles you from the sermon or your direct reading of Acts 26:24-32.

After Paul labored to tell his testimony before Festus and Agrippa, the Roman governor called and said he was out of his mind. Based on your gospel profession, can you relate to this experience? How does Paul’s response inform you of how you might respond to similar accusations?

What other takeaways from Paul’s testimony could you apply to your life? (Make note of his behavior, verbal detail, and to whom he spoke.)

If there’s one thing Jesus would want you to walk away believing and receiving as a result of this portion of Scripture, what is that thing?

**CLOSE IN PRAYER**

As you pray, be sure to include today’s themes in what you bring before God.