

Unstruck: How the Apostle Paul Changed the World

Lesson 7

Acts 26:1-32

January 2, 2022

Boldness in the Face of a King

Introduction

Take a moment to imagine the setting of the trial. “The next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp and entered the audience room with the high-ranking military officers and the prominent men of the city” (Acts 25:23). Paul brought in after these men were settled, was in chains.

The trial was more informal as the leaders didn’t know what crime to charge Paul. But Paul doesn’t cower or beg for mercy. Instead, he shares his story—what he was like before he knew Jesus and how he was changed as a result of meeting Jesus.

For Paul, every time he met with someone who he knew was lost to sin, he used that opportunity to share the love of God through Jesus. Paul was faithful to what God called him to do. Are you?

Memory verse: “Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?”—Acts 26:8

Pray and read Acts 26:1-32. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. How had Paul lived since he was a child? (Acts 26:4-5)

2. Why is he on trial? (Acts 26:2, 6-7)

3. What does Paul admit he had done before he knew Jesus? (Acts 26:9-11)

4. Why did Jesus appear to Paul? (Acts 26:16-18)

5. What was Paul's response to Jesus? The Jews' response to Paul? And God's response? (Acts 26:19-23)

6. What is Festus' response? (Acts 26:24)

7. Summarize the rest of the conversation between Paul and Agrippa. (Acts 26:25-29)

8. What did the leaders in the room conclude? (Acts 26:31-32)

What does the passage mean?

1. Paul was transformed by his interaction with Jesus and used the grace he was shown as part of his testimony. Why can we have confidence in God's grace? (Psalm 86:5; Lamentations 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:4-5; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 1:3)

2. As a result of Paul's experience on the road to Damascus, he was compelled to share God's salvation. What does the Bible say about sharing the gospel with others? (Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8, 10:42; Romans 1:15-17; 1 Timothy 4:13)

3. Paul viewed those he was preaching to through God's eyes. He saw a world that was lost to sin and was compelled to share the only way out. What is the only way out? (John 3:36, 14:6; Acts 26:20; Romans 6:23, 10:9; 1 Peter 3:15)

4. Paul is standing trial for preaching Jesus' resurrection. What cautions and encouragements are given to followers of Jesus? (Psalm 23:4; Matthew 5:10-12; John 15:19-20; Acts 26:22; 2 Timothy 4:18)

Applying the passage

1. How would you articulate how God has shown His grace, love, and mercy in your life?

2. What prevents you from sharing God's love with others?

3. Who do you need to share your story of salvation with this week? Write a prayer asking for an opportunity and courage to share.