


Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 25 & 26

**MESSAGE NOTES**

Thursday, Oct 29
Sunday, Nov 1

## Introduction

Paul has witnessed to the crowd at the Temple.

Paul has witnessed to the Sanhedrin.

Paul has witnessed to Felix, the governor of Judea.

Acts 25:9 NASB
9... I appeal to Caesar." 12Then when Festus had conferred with his council, he answered, "You have appealed to Caesar, to Caesar you shall go."

13Now when several days had elapsed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and paid their respects to Festus. 14While they were spending many days there, Festus laid Paul's case before the king... 22Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I also would like to hear the man myself." "Tomorrow," he said, "you shall hear him." 23So on the next day when Agrippa came together with Bernice amid great pomp, and entered the auditorium accompanied by the commanders and the prominent men of the city, and the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

A Pompous King a the Prisoner Paul

Acts 26:1-29 NASB
Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and proceeded to make his defense: 2"In regard to all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am about to make my defense before you today; 3especially because you are an expert in all customs and questions among the Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently. 4"So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem; 5since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. 6And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers; 7the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly

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serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews. [8]Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead? [9]"So the, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. [10]And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. [11]And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.

[12]"While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, [13]at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. [14]And when we had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

An ox goad is a wooden tool, approximately eight feet long, fitted with an iron spike or point at one end, which was used to spur oxen as they pulled a plow or cart.

[15]And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. [16]But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; [17]rescuing you from the Jewish people from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, [18]to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'

**A- Admit:** Acknowledge to God that you are a sinner and need His forgiveness. (Romans 3:23)

**B- Believe:** Trust that Jesus Christ is God's Son, who died on the cross for your sins and rose from the dead (John 3:16, Romans 10:9)

**C- Confess:** Confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior, turning away from sin and inviting Him to lead your life. (Romans 10:9)

[19]"So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, [20]but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they

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should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance. 21For this reason some Jews seized me in the temple and tried to put me to death. 22So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; 23that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light to both the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

Have you written down or practiced sharing your testimony?

24While Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind! Your great learning is driving you mad." 25But Paul said, "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth. 26For the king knows about these matters, and I speak to him also with confidence, since I am persuaded that none of these things escape his notice; for this has not been done in a corncer. 27King Agrippa, do you believe the Prophets? I know that you do." 28Agrippa replied to Paul, "In a short time you will persuade me to become a Christian." 29And Paul said, " I would wish to God, that whether in a short or long time, not only you, but also all who hear me this day, might become such as I am, except for these chains."

God can use the unexpected detours in our lives to help others move closer to Jesus.

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## GROUP DISCUSSION

The Power of a Testimony: Book of Acts
GateWay Church of Visalia, Pastor Lance Ainsworth
Acts 25 & 26, October 29th & November 1st, 2026
Paul’s witness to Governor Festus and King Agrippa.

Prayer Requests:

Group Discussion: What is the funniest or worst advice someone has ever given you?

Read Aloud: 26

1. In verse 14, Jesus says, “It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ Jesus is saying it’s painful to ignore God’s guidance. Has that been true for you? How can we be more sensitive to God’s nudging in our lives?

2. In Acts 25–26, Paul stands before powerful leaders like Governor Festus and King Agrippa. What stands out to you about Paul's willingness to share his faith, even when his circumstances were difficult? Paul's testimony includes his life before Christ, his encounter with Jesus, and his life after coming to faith. How might these three elements help us communicate our own testimonies clearly?

3. What are some unexpected detours that you have encountered in your life? How have you seen God use these detours to draw others to Jesus?

4. In verses 28–29, Agrippa responds to Paul's appeal by mocking him, and Paul expresses his desire for everyone listening to become a Christian. What does Paul's response reveal about his heart for people who do not yet know Jesus?