

# Festus and Agrippa

**TEXT: Acts 26:1-32**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- A. PAUL ARRESTED IN JERUSALEM, TAKEN TO CEASAREA.
- B. HELD IN BONDS BY WICKED **FELIX** – WHO WANTED MONEY.
- C. SHARP CONTRAST BETWEEN **FESTUS** AND FELIX.
  - 1. His refusal to turn Paul over to the Sanhedrin( **Acts 25:1-5** ).
  - 2. However, he hears the Jews' accusations and Paul's answer( **vs. 6-12** ).
  - 3. When **Agrippa** and **Bernice** arrive they desire to hear Paul( **vs. 13-22** ).
  - 4. Festus explains Paul is still in chains because of his appeal to Caesar.
    - a. He found nothing wrong in him, no explanation for Caesar.
    - b. Maybe Agrippa could furnish him with an explanation.

## **I. PAUL'S DEFENSE.**

- A. **vs. 2-3.** PAUL EXPRESSES DELIGHT AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK BEFORE **AGRIPPA**.
- B. **vs. 4-8.** PAUL'S EARLY POSITION OF A **PHARISEE**.
  - 1. Explain the difference between **Pharisees** and **Sadducees**.
  - 2. Was imprisoned for preaching what Pharisees believed – **the hope of Fathers**.
  - 3. The **resurrection** was not a new idea.
- C. **vs. 9-11.** HE DESCRIBES HIS PERSECUTION OF THE SAINTS.
- D. **vs. 12-18.** TELLS WHAT HAPPENED ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS AND THE **COMMISSION OF JESUS**.
- E. **vs. 19-21.** PERSECUTED FOR CARRYING OUT THE COMMISSION.
- F. **vs. 22-23.** APPEALS TO **AGRIPPA'S KNOWLEDGE** OF THE PROPHETS AND MOSES TO SUPPORT HIS TEACHING.
  - 1. **Agrippa dare not deny these things in the prophets**.
  - 2. Perhaps he recalled these prophecies( **Isa. 53:4-9; Psa. 16:10-11** ).
- G. **vs. 24.** PAUL IS INTERRUPTED BY AN INCREDULOUS FESTUS.
  - 1. Paul insists that his **words are too important** to him to be other than serious.
  - 2. It was **through these words he hoped to save souls**( **Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:21** ).
  - 3. He was a debtor to all men because of the gift he had received( **Rom. 1:14** ).
  - 4. If any were lost is was not Paul's fault( **Acts 20:26-27; 2 Cor. 12:15** ).
- H. **vs. 26.** **AGRIPPA**, AS COULD ALL THE JEWS, COULD BACK UP PAUL, FOR THEY **HAD WITNESSED THESE THINGS** ( **Acts 2:22-24** ).
- I. PAUL APPEALS TO AGRIPPA, NOTICE HIS ANSWER( **vs. 27-28** ).
  - 1. Paul brings the issue right home by asking Agrippa if he believed the prophets.
  - 2. **If he did he would have to accept Jesus**( **Luke 24:44; John 5:39-40** ).
  - 3. Agrippa passes of Paul's question lightly. Would Paul convert him, too?
- J. **vs. 29.** **PAUL'S DESIRE** IS THAT **ALL** MIGHT BE **SAVED**. ( **Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1; 2 Cor. 12:15; Phil. 1:21-24** ).

## **II. TWO GREAT LESSONS.**

- A. **PAUL'S EXAMPLE** OF **ZEAL** AND **LOVE** FOR THE TRUTH AND SOULS.
  - 1. Willing to preach under any circumstance.
  - 2. Regardless of the consequence.
- C. THE ONLY KNOWN OPPORTUNITY OF FESTUS AND AGRIPPA WAS REFUSED. **PERHAPS THIS IS YOUR LAST OPPORTUNITY.**