

ACTS: To the Ends of the Earth

Study 57: Crazy for Christ

READ Acts 25:13-26:32 and **LISTEN** to the [sermon](#) by Pastor Craig.

Governor Festus was faced with a dilemma. Paul had appealed to Caesar to seek justice for charges made against him, yet Festus, who withheld justice because he wanted to please the Jews, did not know what charges he should indicate to Rome. This sets the God-ordained scene for Paul to address King Herod Agrippa II directly. In his defence Paul explains that the resurrection of the Messiah Jesus is the fulfillment of the Jewish hope, the resurrection of the dead. Jesus as the first to rise from the dead now calls people to repent and believe in Jesus Him, as He saves people from the consequences of their sins.

Big idea: The response to the resurrection should be faith, repentance, and obedience, all of which the world may consider insane.

Questions:

1. What does Festus say to Agrippa about Paul in 25:13-22? What do you find most interesting about his statements? See also 25:25-27.
2. How does Paul's speech in Acts 26 highlight and amplify the resurrection?
3. How does Paul's speech in Acts 26 show Christ as the fulfillment of Jewish hope? What is the implication for any Jew who says they loved God but not Christ?
4. According to 26:18, what is the nature of all who are outside of Christ and what has Jesus called those people to?

5. What must a person do to be saved? See 26:18, 20.
6. What does it mean to "perform deeds in keeping with repentance" (26:20)? Does this mean that good deeds are necessary for salvation? See Eph 2:8-10.
7. A. How did Festus respond to Paul and how might we interpret this (26:24)? See also Rom 1:18-23?

B. How might this response prepare us to do evangelism?

C. What was Paul's response and how is the Christian faith true and rational?
8. A. Paul's experience of God's forgiveness and continual blessings in Christ were so real and deep that, despite his prison garb, he desired everyone to be like him (26:29). Can you honestly say that, or do you envy what others have?

B. How might you nurture a deeper walk with Christ and appreciation for the mercy shown to you?

STOP AND PRAY:

Adore: the Lord Jesus Christ who broke the power of sin and Satan, bringing true life

Thank: Jesus for opening your eyes, taking you from darkness, to the living God

Pray: for the boldness and courage of Paul rooted in a deep relationship with Jesus