

5-14-17 Scriptures (NASU)
Message Being a Witness
Developing Know/How

Acts 26:1-23 (NASU)

¹Agrippa 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 *acustoms* and ²questions 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.

⁶"And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers;

⁷ *the promise* to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly 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* ^aif God does raise the dead?

⁹"So then, 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 ¹foreign 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 all 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.*'"

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 and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you,*

¹⁸ *to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and 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.'*

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 should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

²¹ "For this reason *some* Jews ^aseized me in the temple and tried ^bto put me to death.

²² "So, 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;

²³ that the Christ was to suffer, *and* that by reason of *His* resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles."

Acts 26:1-23 NIV

26 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself."

So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defense:

² "King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defense against all the accusations of the Jews,

³ and especially so because you are well acquainted with all the Jewish customs and controversies. Therefore, I beg you to listen to me patiently.

⁴ "The Jews all know the way I have lived ever since I was a child, from the beginning of my life in my own country, and also in Jerusalem.

⁵ They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that according to the strictest sect of our religion, I lived as a Pharisee.

⁶ And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our fathers that I am on trial today.

⁷ This is the promise our twelve tribes are hoping to see fulfilled as they earnestly serve God day and night. O king, it is because of this hope that the Jews are accusing me.

⁸ Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

⁹ "I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

¹⁰ And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the saints in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them.

¹¹ Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them.

¹² "On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.

¹³ About noon, O king, as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions.

¹⁴ We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, '

Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.'

¹⁵ "Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?'

"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied.

¹⁶ 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen of me and what I will show you.

¹⁷ I will rescue you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them

¹⁸ to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

¹⁹ "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven.

²⁰ First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

²¹ That is why the Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.

²² But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen

²³ that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles."

Acts 26:1-23 (NLT)

¹ Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You may speak in your defense."

So Paul, gesturing with his hand, started his defense:

² "I am fortunate, King Agrippa, that you are the one hearing my defense today against all these accusations made by the Jewish leaders,

³ for I know you are an expert on all Jewish customs and controversies. Now please listen to me patiently!

⁴ "As the Jewish leaders are well aware, I was given a thorough Jewish training from my earliest childhood among my own people and in Jerusalem.

⁵ If they would admit it, they know that I have been a member of the Pharisees, the strictest sect of our religion.

⁶ Now I am on trial because of my hope in the fulfillment of God's promise made to our ancestors.

⁷ In fact, that is why the twelve tribes of Israel zealously worship God night and day, and they share the same hope I have. Yet, Your Majesty, they accuse me for having this hope!

⁸ Why does it seem incredible to any of you that God can raise the dead?

⁹ "I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene.

¹⁰ Indeed, I did just that in Jerusalem. Authorized by the leading priests, I caused many believers there to be sent to prison. And I cast my vote against them when they were condemned to death.

¹¹ Many times I had them punished in the synagogues to get them to curse Jesus. I was so violently opposed to them that I even chased them down in foreign cities.

¹² "One day I was on such a mission to Damascus, armed with the authority and commission of the leading priests.

¹³ About noon, Your Majesty, as I was on the road, a light from heaven brighter than the sun shone down on me and my companions.

¹⁴ We all fell down, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, *
'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is useless for you to fight against my will.*"

¹⁵ "'Who are you, lord?' I asked.

"And the Lord replied, 'I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting.

¹⁶ Now get to your feet! For I have appeared to you to appoint you as my servant and witness. You are to tell the world what you have seen and what I will show you in the future.

¹⁷ And I will rescue you from both your own people and the Gentiles. Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles

¹⁸ to open their eyes, so they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. Then they will receive forgiveness for their sins and be given a place among God's people, who are set apart by faith in me.'

¹⁹ "And so, King Agrippa, I obeyed that vision from heaven.

²⁰ I preached first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that all must repent of their sins and turn to God—and prove they have changed by the good things they do.

²¹ Some Jews arrested me in the Temple for preaching this, and they tried to kill me.

²² But God has protected me right up to this present time so I can testify to everyone, from the least to the greatest. I teach nothing except what the prophets and Moses said would happen

²³ that the Messiah would suffer and be the first to rise from the dead, and in this way announce God's light to Jews and Gentiles alike."

Phil 3:4-6

⁴ although ^aI myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵ ^acircumcised the eighth day, of the ^bnation of Israel, of the ^ctribe of Benjamin, a ^bHebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, ^da Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, ^aa persecutor of the church; as to the ^brighteousness which is in the Law, found ^cblameless.

Acts 1:8

⁸ but you will receive power ^awhen the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be ^bMy witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and ^cSamaria, and even to ^dthe remotest part of the earth."

Acts 26:1-23

^{1a} 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; ³ ¹ especially because you are an expert in all ^a customs and ² questions among *the* Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

⁴ "So then, all Jews know ^a my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my *own* nation and at Jerusalem; ⁵ since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived *as* a ^a Pharisee ^b according to the strictest ^c sect of our religion. ⁶ "And now I am ¹ standing trial ^a for the hope of ^b the promise made by God to our fathers; ⁷ *the promise* ^a to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve *God* night and day. And for this ^b hope, O King, I am being ^c accused by Jews. ⁸ "Why is it considered incredible among you *people* ^a if God does raise the dead?

⁹ "So then, ^a I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to ^b the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ "And this is ¹ just what I ^a did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the ² saints in prisons, having ^b received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I ^c cast my vote against them. ¹¹ "And ^a as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being ^b furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them ^c even to ¹ foreign cities.

¹² ¹ "While so engaged ^a 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, ¹ brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. ¹⁴ "And when we had ^a all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the ¹ ^b Hebrew dialect, '*Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? ² It is hard for you to kick against the goads.*' ¹⁵ "And I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And the Lord said, '*I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.*' ¹⁶ '*But get up and ^a stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to ^b appoint you a ^c minister and ^d a witness not only to the things which you have ¹ seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; ¹⁷ ^a rescuing you ^b from the *Jewish* people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, ¹⁸ to ^a open their eyes so that they may turn from*

^bdarkness to light and from the dominion of ^cSatan to God, that they may receive ^dforgiveness of sins and an ^einheritance among those who have been sanctified by ^ffaith in Me.'

¹⁹ "So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but *kept* declaring both ^ato those of Damascus first, and *also* ^bat Jerusalem and *then* throughout all the region of Judea, and *even* ^cto the Gentiles, that they should ^drepent and turn to God, performing deeds ^eappropriate to repentance. ²¹ "For this reason *some* Jews ^aseized me in the temple and tried ^bto put me to death. ²² "So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day ^atestifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what ^bthe Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; ²³ ^{1a}that ²the Christ was ³to suffer, *and* ¹that ^bby reason of *His* resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim ^clight both to the *Jewish* people and to the Gentiles."

1 Tim 1:15

¹⁵ ^aIt is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that ^bChrist Jesus came into the world to ^csave sinners, among whom ^dI am foremost *of all*.

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ "For ^athe Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

2 Cor 4:4

⁴ in whose case ^athe god of ^bthis ¹world has ^cblinded the minds of the unbelieving ²so that they might not see the ^dlight of the gospel of the ^eglory of Christ, who is the ^fimage of God.

Rom 4:5

⁵ But to the one who does not work, but ^abelieves in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

Eph 2:1

¹And you ¹were ^adead ²in your trespasses and sins,

Rom 5:10

¹⁰ For if while we were ^aenemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved ^{1b}by His life.