



Power From on High

Series: Power From On High

Title: A Life On Trial, Part 1

Lesson: 138

Text: Acts 25:13-26:3

Date: August 2, 2026

Our passage can be divided into three segments:

1. Festus explains Paul's case to Agrippa. (25:13–22)
2. Festus presents Paul before Agrippa. (25:23–27)
3. Paul's defense before Agrippa. (26:1–3)

1. Festus explains Paul's case to Agrippa. (25:13–22)

Acts 25:13–22 Now when several days had elapsed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and paid their respects to Festus.

King Agrippa II

Herod	Reigned	Major NT Events
Herod the Great	37–4 B.C.	King at the birth of Jesus. Ordered the slaughter of the infants in Bethlehem (Matthew 2). Rebuilt the Jerusalem Temple.
Herod Antipas	4 B.C.–A.D. 39	Beheaded John the Baptist (Mark 6). Questioned Jesus during His trial (Luke 23). Mocked Him and sent Him back to Pilate.
Herod Archelaus	4 B.C.–A.D. 6	Mentioned only in Matthew 2:22. Because of his cruelty, Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Nazareth instead of returning to Judea.
Herod Agrippa I	A.D. 37–44	Acts 12. Executed James the apostle, imprisoned Peter, accepted worship as a god, and was struck down by God. Grandson of Herod the Great.
Herod Agrippa II	A.D. 48–c. 93	Acts 25–26. Heard Paul's defense in Caesarea. Last ruler of the Herodian dynasty mentioned in Scripture. Great-grandson of Herod the Great.

“Bernice”

14 While they were spending many days there, Festus laid Paul’s case before the king, saying, “There is a man who was left as a prisoner by Felix; 15 and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews brought charges against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.

“many days”

In ancient diplomacy, the first few days of a visiting dignitary were filled with formal banquets, sacrifices and official ceremonies.

Why is this scene important?

16 “I answered them that it is not the custom of the Romans to hand over any man before the accused meets his accusers face to face and has an opportunity to make his defense against the charges. 19 but they simply had some points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a dead man, Jesus, whom Paul asserted to be alive.

17 “So after they had assembled here, I did not delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought before me. 18 “When the accusers stood up, they began bringing charges against him not of such crimes as I was expecting, 19 but they simply had some points of disagreement with him about their own religion and about a dead man, Jesus, whom Paul asserted to be alive.

20 “Being at a loss how to investigate such matters, I asked whether he was willing to go to Jerusalem and there stand trial on these matters. 21 “But when Paul appealed to be held in custody for the Emperor’s decision, I ordered him to be kept in custody until I send him to Caesar.”

22 Then Agrippa said to Festus, “I also would like to hear the man myself.” “Tomorrow,” he said, “you shall hear him.”

2. Festus presents Paul before Agrippa (25:23-27)

23 So, 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, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

24 Festus said, "King Agrippa, and all you gentlemen here present with us, you see this man about whom all the people of the Jews appealed to me, both at Jerusalem and here, loudly declaring that he ought not to live any longer.

25 "But I found that he had committed nothing worthy of death; and since he himself appealed to the Emperor, I decided to send him.

26 "Yet I have nothing definite about him to write to my lord. Therefore I have brought him before you all and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after the investigation has taken place, I may have something to write. 27 "For it seems absurd to me in sending a prisoner, not to indicate also the charges against him."

3. Paul's defense before Agrippa. (Acts 26:1–3)

1 Agrippa said to Paul, “You are permitted to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and proceeded to make his defense:

“stretched out his hand”

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 especially because you are an expert in all customs and questions among the Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

Implications

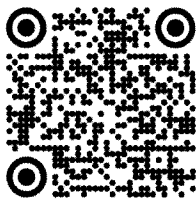
1. The strongest defense of the gospel is often the
_____ of the one proclaiming it.



A life of integrity gives weight and _____
to the gospel we proclaim.

Discussion guide

1. Why do you think Luke repeatedly records that Roman officials found Paul innocent? What does that repeated pattern teach us about the relationship between a believer's integrity and the credibility of the gospel?
2. Paul's life was examined before his message was heard. In what ways are people "examining our lives" before they are willing to listen to what we believe? What areas of our conduct speak the loudest?
3. God used Roman governors, legal procedures, and political events to move Paul one step closer to Rome. How does this encourage you to trust God's providence even when circumstances seem confusing or unfair?
4. Paul consistently showed respect, composure, and courage while standing before powerful authorities. What can we learn from his example about how Christians should respond when they are criticized, falsely accused, or treated unfairly?



***Meet
the staff***



***Online
Giving***



***Weekly
Announcement***

ANSWERS: integrity, Observed Paul's character, Presentation of the gospel, credibility