

Almost persuaded- Agrippa



Acts 26:1- 32

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¹ Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." So Paul motioned with his hand and began his defence:



² "King Agrippa, I consider myself fortunate to stand before you today as I make my defence 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 Jewish people 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.



⁵They have known me for a long time and can testify, if they are willing, that I conformed to the strictest sect of our religion, living as a Pharisee. ⁶ And now it is because of my hope in what God has promised our ancestors 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. King Agrippa, 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 Lord's people 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. I was so obsessed with persecuting them



that I even hunted them down in foreign cities. ¹² "On one of these journeys I was going to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³ About noon, King Agrippa, 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 and will
see of me. 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 then to the Gentiles,



I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds. ²¹ That is why some Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me.



²² But God has helped me to
this very day; 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 Messiah



would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead , would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles." ²⁴ At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defence.



"You are out of your mind, Paul!"
he shouted. "Your great
learning is driving you insane." ²⁵"I
am not insane, most
excellent Festus," Paul replied.
"What I am saying is true and
reasonable."



²⁶ The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner.

27 "King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."²⁸ Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"



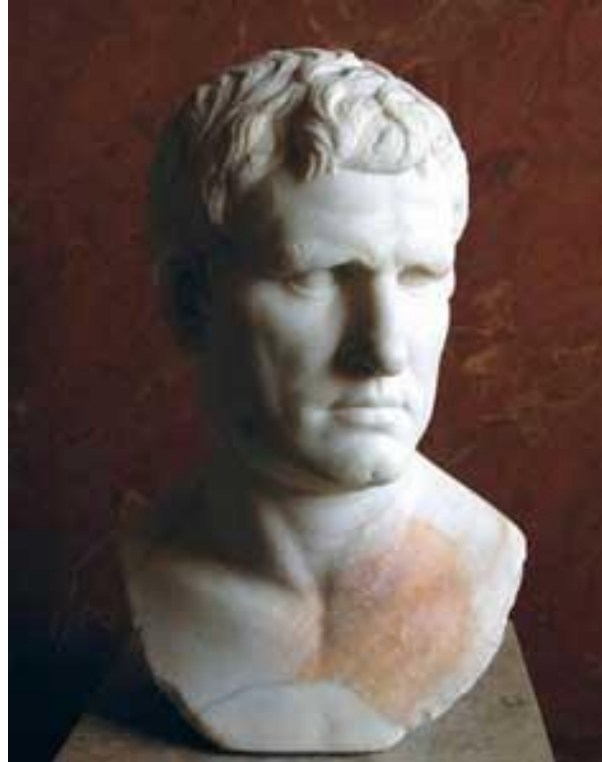
29 Paul replied, "Short time or long--I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains." 30 The king rose,



and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them. ³¹ After they left the room, they began saying to one another, "This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment."

³²Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar."

Context: Who was Agrippa?



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Context:

Why is Paul before them in chains?



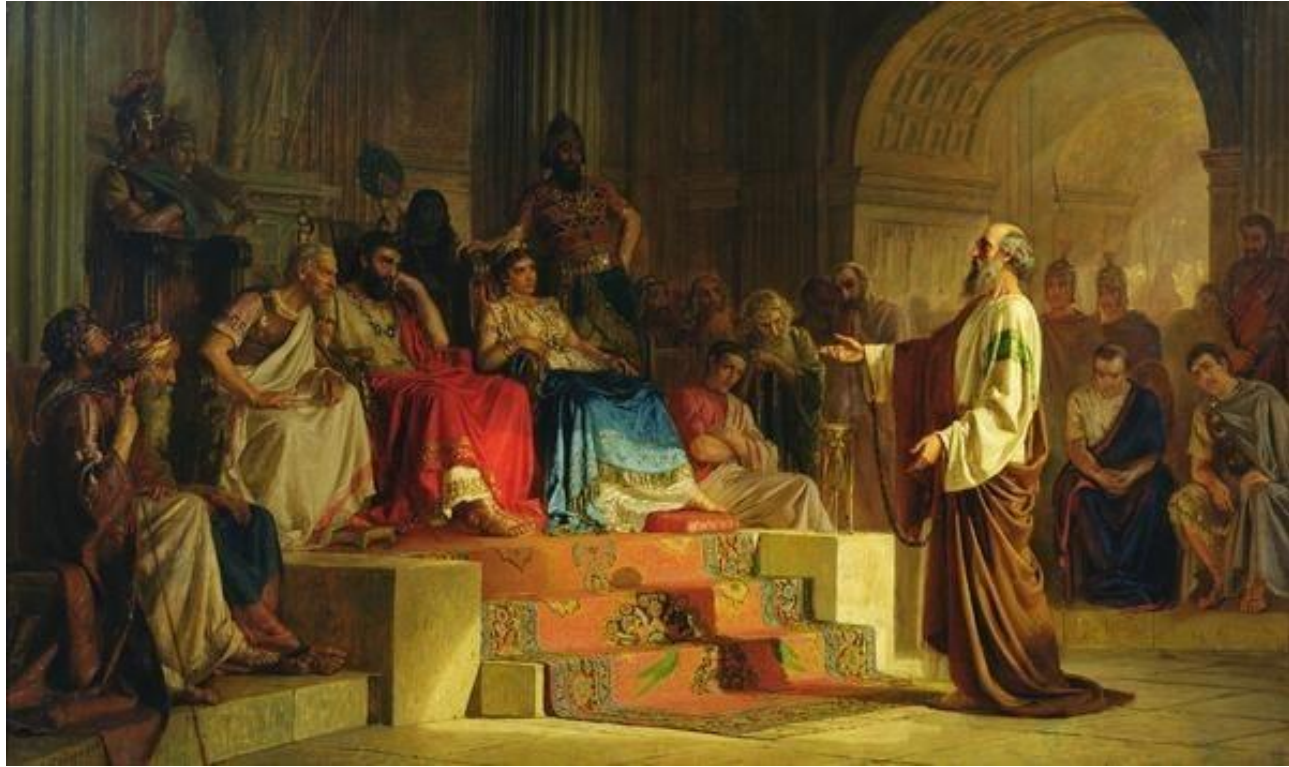


Almost persuaded

Fully convinced

Are we persuaded?

Almost persuaded





Almost persuaded



St Barnabas
transforming lives • changing the world

Would you swap?



Fully Convinced



Boldness



“Kick against the goads”



Are we persuaded?



God or the goad?





Our lives have been
transformed