

July 26, 2026

A Story Worth Sharing
Acts 26:1-8

St. John Baptist Church
LOVE GOD • LOVE PEOPLE • MAKE DISCIPLES

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Sermon Notes

Acts 26:1–8 (ESV)

¹So Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:

²“I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews,

³especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently.

⁴“My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews.

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

⁶And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers,

⁷to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! ⁸Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?

(Answer key located on the last page)

I. TELL YOUR TESTIMONY

Acts 26:1–3 (ESV)

Before Paul says a word about Jesus, he does something easy to miss: he shows _____.

The word "defense" meant a formal response to a charge. But Paul wasn't fighting for _____ — he'd already appealed to Caesar.

Then comes a phrase that should stop us: Paul begs Agrippa to listen _____. That word means more than "don't interrupt" — it means to bear with someone, to extend forbearance.

- Application: Think of one relationship where your faith has caused tension. Choose one way to respond with calm respect this week.

II. TRACE YOUR TRANSFORMATION

Acts 26:4–5 (ESV)

Paul doesn't hide that he was a _____ — the strictest, most zealous party in Judaism. Paul isn't introducing new information; he's reminding his accusers of what they've always known.

Stop editing your testimony down to the parts that make you look _____. Say the actual name of what Christ saved you from, because that specific truth is what someone else needs to hear to believe grace can reach them too.

- Application: Write down two or three honest details about who you were before Christ. Share that "before" picture with one trusted person this week.

III. TRUST THE TRIUMPHANT HOPE

Acts 26:6–8 (ESV)

Paul lands on the reason any of this matters: he is on trial because of his _____ in the promise made by God to our fathers — the promise of resurrection.

Paul asks a question that cuts straight to the point: “Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the _____?”

Paul’s personal encounter with the risen Jesus is “Exhibit A” that the _____ is real.

- Application: When you tell your story this week, don’t stop at “my life got better.” Add the Resurrection — let your testimony end at the empty tomb, not just at your own improvement.

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Who is the “Marcus” God is bringing to mind — someone who needs to hear your story of what Christ has done for you?

Answer Key

I. TELL YOUR TESTIMONY

respect | acquittal | patiently

II. TRACE YOUR TRANSFORMATION

Pharisee | good |

III. TRUST THE TRIUMPHANT HOPE

hope | dead | resurrection |

The Good News

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (Romans 5:1)

The Bad News

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
(Romans 3:23)

The Ugly News

For the wages of sin is death, ... (Romans 6:23a)

The Great News

... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 6:23a)

Guess What?

You can become a Christian right now and experience salvation and the gift of eternal life through God's Son the Lord Jesus Christ! Simply Pray this Prayer Right Now! **"God thank you for Jesus Christ who died on the cross for my sins.**

Thank you for receiving what Jesus did for me on the cross as payment for my sins. Please forgive me for my sins. Right now I accept Jesus into my heart and ask that he become my Savior and Lord! Amen!"

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

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