

July 19, 2026



Sermon Notes

Acts 25:13–27 (ESV)

¹³Now when some days had passed, Agrippa the king and Bernice arrived at Caesarea and greeted Festus.

¹⁴And as they stayed there many days, Festus laid Paul's case before the king, saying, "There is a man left prisoner by Felix,

¹⁵and when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and the elders of the Jews laid out their case against him, asking for a sentence of condemnation against him.

¹⁶I answered them that it was not the custom of the Romans to give up anyone before the accused met the accusers face to face and had opportunity to make his defense concerning the charge laid against him.

¹⁷So when they came together here, I made no delay, but on the next day took my seat on the tribunal and ordered the man to be brought.

¹⁸When the accusers stood up, they brought no charge in his case of such evils as I supposed.

¹⁹Rather they had certain points of dispute with him about their own religion and about a certain Jesus, who was dead, but whom Paul asserted to be alive.

²⁰Being at a loss how to investigate these questions, I asked whether he wanted to go to Jerusalem and be tried there regarding them.

²¹But when Paul had appealed to be kept in custody for the decision of the emperor, I ordered him to be held until I could send him to Caesar.”

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

²³So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

²⁴And Festus said, “King Agrippa and all who are present with us, you see this man about whom the whole Jewish people petitioned me, both in Jerusalem and here, shouting that he ought not to live any longer.

²⁵But I found that he had done nothing deserving death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him.

²⁶But I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him. Therefore I have brought him before you all, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that, after we have examined him, I may have something to write.

²⁷For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him.”

(Answer key located on the last page)

Big Idea: When we stand firm in what we believe, and we stay ready to give an honest answer for our faith, God will use us — even in the most intimidating rooms of our lives — as His instruments to point people to Jesus Christ.

I. STAND FIRM WITH GODLY RESPECT

Acts 25:13–18 (ESV)

Standing firm in your faith is not about winning an _____ — it's about keeping your _____ steady when everything around you is shaky.

Christ Connection: Jesus stood in hostile rooms and never raised His voice, never begged, never turned _____.

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

II. SPEAK THE TRUTH WITH BOLD COURAGE

Acts 25:19 (ESV)

The real issue wasn't Roman law — it was one claim: a dead man named _____, whom Paul kept insisting was _____.

Greek word study: _____ (par-ray-SEE-ah) — plain, open, fearless speech.

1 Peter 3:15 tells us to always be ready to give an _____ for the hope we have — with _____ and _____.

- *Application:* This week, write a three-sentence answer to the question, “Why do you believe in Jesus?”

III. SPARK CURIOSITY FOR CHRIST

Acts 25:20–27 (ESV)

King Agrippa becomes _____ — not convicted yet, just curious.

Festus admits Paul has done nothing worthy of death. That's injustice — but God does not waste _____.

What got everyone in that room wasn't a sermon, a flyer, or an argument — it was _____.

Christ Connection: A Roman centurion at the cross said, “Truly this was the _____ of God.”

- *Application:* Pray for one specific person watching you closely — your own “Agrippa.”

PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Where in your life this week is your faith likely to be questioned or tested?

Answer Key

I. STAND FIRM WITH GODLY RESPECT

argument | character | bitter.

II. SPEAK THE TRUTH WITH BOLD COURAGE

Jesus | alive. | parrhesia | answer | gentleness | respect.

III. SPARK CURIOSITY FOR CHRIST

curious | injustice | curiosity | Son

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)

Connect With Pastor Reaves!
Like his page on Facebook Derrick Reaves

Follow him on



@DerrickReaves

