

The Book of Acts

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

Acts 26:1-32

Day 1	Acts 26:1-5
Day 2	Acts 26:6-11
Day 3	Acts 26:12-18
Day 4	Acts 26:19-24
Day 5	Acts 26:25-32

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

1 Look in His Word

Feel free to underline, circle or otherwise mark text if it will aid your study.

Acts 26:1-5

¹Then 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,

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

⁴The 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.

⁵They 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.

2 List the Facts

What does the passage say? Make a verse-by-verse list of the most obvious, outstanding facts. Be literal as you answer.

Example:

26:1 Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak.” So Paul began his defense.

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

3 Learn from the Lessons

What does the passage mean? What lessons can be learned from these facts? Be spiritual as you answer.

Example:

26:1 Trials can be opportunities to present our personal testimony in defense of the Gospel.

4 Listen to His Voice

What does this passage mean to you? Rewrite the lessons from step 3 in the form of a question. Be personal as you answer.

Example:

26:1 Instead of complaining about the difficulty I am experiencing, why don't I use it as an opportunity to tell and show others what Jesus means to me?

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 26:6-11

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

⁷This 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.

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

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

¹⁰And 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.

¹¹Many 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.”

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

3

Learn from the Lessons

4

Listen to His Voice

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 26:12-18

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

¹³About 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.

¹⁴We 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.’

¹⁵Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

¹⁶‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied. ‘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.

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

¹⁸to 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.’”

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

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Learn from the Lessons

4

Listen to His Voice

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 26:19-24

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

²⁰First 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.

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

²²But 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--

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

²⁴At this point Festus interrupted Paul’s defense. “You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you insane.”

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

3

Learn from the Lessons

4

Listen to His Voice

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

1 Look in His Word

2 List the Facts

Acts 26:25-32

²⁵“I am not insane, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable.

²⁶The 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.

²⁷King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”

²⁸Then Agrippa said to Paul, “Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?”

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

³⁰The king rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them.

³¹They left the room, and while talking with one another, they said, “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.”

LESSON TWENTY-SIX

3 Learn from the Lessons

4 Listen to His Voice

5 Live in Response

How will you respond? Pinpoint what God is saying to you from this passage. Write down today's date and what you will do now about what He has said.

NOTES