

# Bible Study on CONNECT in ACTS — Acts 21:27-26:32

## For Sunday November 13, 2022

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### Acts 21:27-26:32

***\*The passage this week is too long for a single piece of paper. Please take time to read the whole section. Included are a few passages of importance to focus on.\****

Acts 25:6–12 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> After he stayed among them not more than eight or ten days, he went down to Caesarea. And the next day he took his seat on the tribunal and ordered Paul to be brought. <sup>7</sup> When he had arrived, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many and serious charges against him that they could not prove. <sup>8</sup> Paul argued in his defense, “Neither against the law of the Jews, nor against the temple, nor against Caesar have I committed any offense.” <sup>9</sup> But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Do you wish to go up to Jerusalem and there be tried on these charges before me?” <sup>10</sup> But Paul said, “I am standing before Caesar’s tribunal, where I ought to be tried. To the Jews I have done no wrong, as you yourself know very well. <sup>11</sup> If then I am a wrongdoer and have committed anything for which I deserve to die, I do not seek to escape death. But if there is nothing to their charges against me, no one can give me up to them. I appeal to Caesar.” <sup>12</sup> Then Festus, when he had conferred with his council, answered, “To Caesar you have appealed; to Caesar you shall go.”

Acts 25:23–27 (ESV)

<sup>23</sup> So 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. <sup>24</sup> And 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. <sup>25</sup> But 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. <sup>26</sup> But 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. <sup>27</sup> For it seems to me unreasonable, in sending a prisoner, not to indicate the charges against him.”

Acts 26:14–18 (ESV)

<sup>14</sup> And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ <sup>15</sup> And I said, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. <sup>16</sup> But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, <sup>17</sup> delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.’

Acts 26:25–32 (ESV)

<sup>25</sup> But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. <sup>26</sup> For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. <sup>27</sup> King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.” <sup>28</sup> And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” <sup>29</sup> And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

<sup>30</sup> Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them. <sup>31</sup> And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” <sup>32</sup> And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

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1. From this passage, what stands out to you the most? How do you see Paul handle himself?
2. As much as possible, put yourself in Paul's shoes, arrested and held in prison for a few years for no good reason, what are you trying to do and say? In times of uncertainty and waiting, how can Paul's experience be of practical help for you?
3. Whenever Paul speaks to a crowd or a Roman official, what seems to be his main focus? Why?
4. In 24:2-8, we see several specific accusations being made against Paul. Why would these accusations carry so much weight with both the Romans and the Jews? How does Paul respond?
5. What does Paul hope to accomplish by appealing to Caesar? Personally? For the Gospel?
6. Twice in this passage we hear the story of Paul on the road to Damascus. What are the distinct elements of his mission and message to the Gentiles that Jesus gives to Paul?
7. Festus claimed that Paul was out of his mind. What about the Christian faith seems odd to the world? What makes the world look at followers of Jesus and say, "they are out of their minds"?