



# Standing Before Kings

Acts 26:1-32 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

## DISCUSS

Throughout our lives, we often have the opportunity to speak to many different types of people; some of them very influential in our community, some of them important in our society, but we don't think to share with them about Jesus Christ. The question is, why not? The apostle Paul had an opportunity like this, and he did not waste his time. He was given an opportunity to speak in an auditorium full of the most prominent people in the Roman province of Palestine. What would Paul say and do? Read Acts 26 and discuss the following biblical principles that we need to remember as followers of Jesus Christ.

### Remember even good people needs a savior (v. 1-2, 13-15)

- How did the Savior Jesus Christ radically change Paul, which became his powerful salvation testimony?
- Why do good people, including those who are pious and holy in their own sight, need a Savior?
- Instead of feeling intimidated, how should you feel for powerful and even good people who do not know the Lord as their Savior? How should this motivate and challenge you to do the work of the Great Commission?

### Remember that we are called to be a servant and a witness (v. 16-17)

- What did Paul further tell the rulers about the charge the Lord gave to him?
- As a follower of Christ, how do you understand being a servant of others and a witness for Christ?

- If you knew there is a need to serve in a particular ministry, but it entails that you wake up earlier on a Sunday morning, would you willingly do so without grumbling?
- If the call goes out that our church shows the watching world that we love and honor our Lord by coming to church on-time, ready to worship, would you respond with excitement? Would you be willing to lose a business deal, or give up an entertainment event for the sake of someone coming to Christ?
- What would happen if you can't do these simple things to sacrifice for your Lord? What should be your motive in being a servant and a witness for Christ?

### Remember to prioritize the important things of life (v. 18)

- What was the life-changing message and what important things of life did Christ ask Paul to share with the world?
- With the limited time you have, do you tell the people you come in contact with about the greatest need they have—the need for a Savior? How about with your Christian friends, do you ever ask how he or she is growing in Christ? What is God teaching him or her?

### Remember to be obedient to God above all things (v. 19-21)

- For what reason did Paul tell King Agrippa why the Jews wanted him arrested and killed? Was he afraid of the consequences of being obedient to God?
- What keeps you from standing for the truth and being obedient to God and His Word?
- If God tells you to do something and the one you love tells you to do something else, who wins out? Would it be alright with you if your friend or family member is angry with you because you are following the Lord in obedience?

### Remember to rely on God's enablement to do great things (v. 22-23)

- Whom did Paul give the credit for enabling him to speak to King Agrippa and the royal audience listening to him?
- Do you think that without the Lord's enablement, you will continue to be blessed, the church will continue to grow and make an impact in your community?
- Does it scare you that the Lord can easily take His hands off blessing away from you if you do not humble yourself before Him? As a

church body, should we rest on our growth and accomplishments?  
Do we continue to be fully reliant upon Him?

**Remember that our desire should be to see life change (v. 24-29)**

- How did Paul defend himself and speak with boldness? What response did Paul give to King Agrippa that shows the life change in him through the redemptive blood of Jesus Christ?
- What do you desire your life to be? Is it to be more Christ-like and to see life change in others through Christ?

**REFLECT (v. 30-32)**

When they discussed what Paul had said, they all came to the realization that he had done nothing wrong. Why didn't they set him free then? What was God's will for him to do after this incident? It is obvious that Paul was not afraid to stand before kings, and neither should we. What should you remember when God calls you to stand before others, powerful or not, to speak about Him?

**PRAY**

Heavenly Father, thank You that with Christ as my Lord and Savior, I can stand before anyone, and boldly proclaim the Good News that Jesus Christ alone saves. Lord God, please give me the courage to invite people to church and to witness to people who need You. May you give me the courage I need to reach out and speak for You. In Jesus' name. Amen.