

**Acts 25:13 – 26:32**

v13 – ‘pay their respects’	(phrase)	to go and see someone to welcome them or speak to them
25:14 – prisoner	(noun)	a person who is in jail or prison as a punishment
25:15 – chief priests and elders	(pl. noun)	the leaders of the Jewish people
25:15 - condemned	(verb)	judged as guilty in a legal court and sentenced to punishment
25:16 – custom	(noun)	an activity that is traditional for a group of people
25:16 – accusers	(pl. noun)	people who say that someone else has done something wrong
25:17 – convened	(verb)	gathered a group to meet together
25:18 – charge	(noun)	a formal accusation that someone has done something wrong
v19 – dispute	(noun)	an argument
25:19 – claimed	(verb)	say something that you cannot prove to be true or false
25:20 – investigate	(verb)	try and find out the truth about whether something happened
25:20 – ‘at a loss’	(phrase)	unsure (what to do)
25:20 – willing	(adjective)	willing or prepared (to do something)
25:20 – stand trial	(phrase)	to be tested in a law court
25:21 – appeal	(noun)	make an urgent request; ask someone in authority to change a decision
25:23 – pomp	(noun)	a lot of decoration, ceremony and fine clothes to make something/ someone seem more important
25:23 – high ranking	(adjective)	in an important position
25:24 – petitioned	(verb)	formally asked
25:26 – definite	(adjective)	clear; certainly true rather than opinion or guess
25:27 – unreasonable	(adjective)	unfair; unjust
25:27 – specifying	(verb)	explaining in a detailed way
26:1 – permission	(noun)	said to be allowed to do something
26:1 – motioned	(adjective)	made a signal
26:1 – defense	(noun)	presenting evidence in one’s favour in a court of law
26:2 – fortunate	(adjective)	lucky
26:2 – accusations	(pl. noun)	statements claiming that someone has done something wrong
26:3 – controversies	(pl. noun)	discussions where there are lots of disagreements

26:3 – beg	(verb)	ask eagerly and anxiously
26:5 – testify	(verb)	to speak, telling the truth about what you have seen
26:5 – strictest	(adjective)	most precise; most closely following the rules
26:5 – sect	(noun)	a group of people who have separated from a larger group because of beliefs or practices
26:5 – Pharisee	(noun)	a Jewish person from the sect of the Pharisees who carefully followed the rules (and so thought that they were better than other Jews)
26:6 – ‘on trial’	(phrase)	tested in a law court
26:7 – earnestly	(adverb)	doing something in a thorough way
26:8 – incredible	(adjective)	unbelievable
26:9 – convinced	(adjective)	feeling sure that something is true
26:9 – ought to	(phrase)	should
26:9 - oppose	(verb)	disagree with someone’s plans or ideas and try to prevent them from doing them
26:10 – authority	(noun)	official permission (to do something)
26:10 – saints	(pl. noun)	Christians
26:11 – synagogue	(noun)	the place where Jews meet to worship God and learn from the Scriptures
26:11 – punished	(verb)	made to suffer because of something you’ve done wrong
26:11 – blaspheme	(verb)	say disrespectful and false things about God
26:11 – obsession	(noun)	an idea about something that doesn’t go away
26:11- persecute	(verb)	treat someone in a cruel and unfair way because of their beliefs
26:12 – commission	(noun)	a formal instruction and appointment to do a task
26:13 – blazing	(verb)	shining very brightly
26:13 – companions	(pl. noun)	people you are travelling with
26:14 – goads	(noun)	a driving force or motivation to do something; a sharp pointed stick used to drive cattle along
26:16 – appoint	(verb)	give someone a job or special position
26:16 – witness	(noun)	a person who has seen an event and tells others about it
26:18 – sanctified	(verb)	being made holy; made more like Jesus in character
26:19 – disobedient	(adjective)	deliberately not doing what someone in charge tells you to do

26:20 – Gentiles	(pl. noun)	people who are not Jews
26:20 – preached	(verb)	publicly spoke
26:20 – repent	(verb)	say you are sorry (to God) for something you have done wrong, and start doing what is right
26:20- repentance	(noun)	the act of repenting; the act of saying you are sorry for doing what is wrong, and starting to do what is right
26:20 – deeds	(pl. noun)	actions
26:21- seized	(verb)	took hold of something quickly
26:22 – alike	(adverb)	in the same way
26:22 – prophets	(pl. noun)	people sent by God to pass on a message from Him to a group of people
26:23 – proclaim	(verb)	formally say something to be true
26:24 – insane	(adjective)	crazy; not of sound mind
26:26 – freely	(adverb)	without something getting in the way
26:28 – persuade	(verb)	to speak to people and try to convince them that something is true
26:31 - deserves	(verb)	having qualities that make it right for them to receive something (good or bad)
26:32 – set free	(verbal phrase)	no longer in prison; released

#### Acts 25:13 – 26:32 (New International Reader's Version)

<sup>13</sup> A few days later King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea. They came to pay a visit to Festus. <sup>14</sup> They were spending many days there. So Festus talked with the king about Paul's case. He said, "There's a man here that Felix left as a prisoner. <sup>15</sup> When I went to Jerusalem, the Jewish chief priests and the elders brought charges against the man. They wanted him to be found guilty.

<sup>16</sup> "I told them that this is not the way Romans do things. We don't judge people before they have faced those bringing charges against them. They must have a chance to argue against the charges for themselves. <sup>17</sup> When the Jewish leaders came back with me, I didn't waste any time. I called the court together the next day. I ordered the man to be brought in. <sup>18</sup> Those bringing charges against him got up to speak. But they didn't charge him with any of the crimes I had expected. <sup>19</sup> Instead, they argued with him about their own beliefs. They didn't agree about a man named Jesus. They said Jesus was dead, but Paul claimed Jesus was alive. <sup>20</sup> I had no idea how to look into such matters. So I asked Paul if he would be willing to go to Jerusalem. There he could be tried on these charges. <sup>21</sup> But Paul made an appeal to have the Emperor decide his case. So I ordered him to be held until I could send him to Caesar." <sup>22</sup> Then Agrippa said to Festus, "I would like to hear this man myself."

Festus replied, "Tomorrow you will hear him."

<sup>23</sup> The next day Agrippa and Bernice arrived. They were treated like very important people. They entered the courtroom. The most important military officers and the leading men of the city came with them. When Festus gave the command, Paul was brought in. <sup>24</sup> Festus said, "King Agrippa, and everyone else here, take a good look at this man! A large number of Jews have come to me about him. They came to me in Jerusalem and also here in Caesarea. They keep shouting that he shouldn't live any longer. <sup>25</sup> I have found that he hasn't done anything worthy of death. But he made his appeal to the Emperor. So I decided to send him to Rome. <sup>26</sup> I don't have anything certain to write about him to His Majesty. So I have brought him here today. Now all of you will be able to hear him. King Agrippa, it will also be very good for you to hear him. As a result of this hearing, I will have something to write. <sup>27</sup> It doesn't make sense to send a prisoner on to Rome without listing the charges against him."

<sup>26:1</sup> Agrippa said to Paul, "You may now present your case."

So Paul motioned with his hand. Then he began to present his case. <sup>2</sup> "King Agrippa," he said, "I am happy to be able to stand here today. I will answer all the charges brought against me by the Jews. <sup>3</sup> I am very pleased that you are familiar with Jewish ways. You know the kinds of things they argue about. So I beg you to be patient as you listen to me.

<sup>4</sup>“The Jewish people all know how I have lived ever since I was a child. They know all about me from the beginning of my life. They know how I lived in my own country and in Jerusalem. <sup>5</sup>They have known me for a long time. So if they wanted to, they could tell you how I have lived. I have lived by the rules of the Pharisees. Those rules are harder to obey than those of any other Jewish group. <sup>6</sup>Today I am on trial because of the hope I have. I believe in what God promised our people of long ago. <sup>7</sup>It is the promise that our 12 tribes are hoping to see come true. Because of this hope they serve God with faithful and honest hearts day and night. King Agrippa, it is also because of this hope that these Jews are bringing charges against me. <sup>8</sup>Why should any of you think it is impossible for God to raise the dead?

<sup>9</sup>“I believed that I should oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. So I did everything I could to oppose his name. <sup>10</sup>That’s just what I was doing in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests, I put many of the Lord’s people in prison. I agreed that they should die. <sup>11</sup>I often went from one synagogue to another to have them punished. I tried to force them to speak evil things against Jesus. All I wanted to do was hurt them. I even went looking for them in the cities of other lands.

<sup>12</sup>“On one of these journeys I was on my way to Damascus. I had the authority and commission of the chief priests. <sup>13</sup>About noon, King Agrippa, I was on the road. I saw a light coming from heaven. It was brighter than the sun. It was shining around me and my companions. <sup>14</sup>We all fell to the ground. I heard a voice speak to me in the Aramaic language. ‘Saul! Saul!’ it said. ‘Why are you opposing me? It is hard for you to go against what you know is right.’ <sup>15</sup>“Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’

“‘I am Jesus,’ the Lord replied. ‘I am the one you are opposing. <sup>16</sup>Now get up. Stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you to serve me. And you must tell other people about me. You must tell others that you have seen me today. You must also tell them that I will show myself to you again. <sup>17</sup>I will save you from your own people and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them <sup>18</sup>to open their eyes. I want you to turn them from darkness to light. I want you to turn them from Satan’s power to God. I want their sins to be forgiven. They will be forgiven when they believe in me. They will have their place among God’s people.’

<sup>19</sup>“So then, King Agrippa, I obeyed the vision that appeared from heaven. <sup>20</sup>First I preached to people in Damascus. Then I preached in Jerusalem and in all Judea. And then I preached to the Gentiles. I told them to turn away from their sins to God. The way they live must show that they have turned away from their sins. <sup>21</sup>That’s why some Jews grabbed me in the temple courtyard and tried to kill me. <sup>22</sup>But God has helped me to this day. So I stand here and tell you what is true. I tell it to everyone, both small and great. I have been saying nothing different from what the prophets and Moses said would happen. <sup>23</sup>They said the Messiah would suffer. He would be the first to rise from the dead. He would bring the message of God’s light. He would bring it to his own people and to the Gentiles.”

<sup>24</sup>While Paul was still presenting his case, Festus interrupted. “You are out of your mind, Paul!” he shouted. “Your great learning is driving you crazy!” <sup>25</sup>“I am not crazy, most excellent Festus,” Paul replied. “What I am saying is true and reasonable. <sup>26</sup>The king is familiar with these things. So I can speak openly to him. I am certain he knows everything that has been going on. After all, it was not done in secret. <sup>27</sup>King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do.”

<sup>28</sup>Then Agrippa spoke to Paul. “Are you trying to talk me into becoming a Christian?” he said. “Do you think you can do that in such a short time?”

<sup>29</sup>Paul replied, “I don’t care if it takes a short time or a long time. I pray to God for you and all who are listening to me today. I pray that you may become like me, except for these chains.”

<sup>30</sup>The king stood up. The governor and Bernice and those sitting with them stood up too. <sup>31</sup>They left the room and began to talk with one another. “Why should this man die or be put in prison?” they said. “He has done nothing worthy of that!”

<sup>32</sup>Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free. But he has made an appeal to Caesar.”

## English Corner Sundays 6:15-6:45pm in the Cottage



Is English your second (or third or fourth...) language?

**Come and join us at English Corner!**

We will help you understand the Bible passage for that evening’s sermon.

**Includes free dinner at 6pm!**