

St. John's Baptist Church

Woburn, Massachusetts

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## **"Paul and King Agrippa II"**

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### Goal of the Lesson:

EXPLORE the culture/experiences that we bring to evangelism opportunities.

REALIZE evangelism is an opportunity for you and the person you are evangelizing.

DETERMINE the sin problem (spiritual sickness) in each challenge to evangelism.

REALIZE that each evangelism encounter glorifies God.

### Background:

The Apostle Paul shared the Good News of Jesus Christ (His birth, death, resurrection, and ascension to Heaven) during a time of great transition within the history of the Jewish people. The Jews had undergone many cultural, religious, and political changes. They had prior to the birth of Jesus Christ, been led out of slavery from Egypt and into the Promised Land. Once in the Promised Land their breaking of the covenant with God, their sin and disobedience to God led to punishment from God. He (God) allowed them to be ruled over by the Assyrians, Babylonians, Persians, Greeks and finally the Romans.

It was under the rule of the Romans that Paul found himself imprisoned. He was falsely accused by the Jews of blaspheming God, desecrating the temple, disobeying the Mosaic Law, and defying Roman government. Paul was considered a problem for the Jews and the Romans because he threatened the status quo of religion, politics, economics and government rulership. It was believed that Paul threatened the

Pharisees religious system; the Herodians political system; the Sadducees economic system; and the Roman's government rulership.

### Scripture Readings:

Acts 21:27 – 36	Paul Goes to Jerusalem;
Acts 22:1 – 23	Paul Speaks to the Jewish Leaders;
Acts 22:24-23:11	Paul and the Roman Army Commander;
Acts 23:12-35	A Plot to Kill Paul;
Acts 24:1-23	Paul in the Court of Felix;
Acts 24:24-25:12	Paul is Under Guard;
Acts 25:13-27	Paul Speaks to King Agrippa II and Bernice;
Acts 26:1-32	Paul's Defense and Evangelism

### Introduction:

The Biblical account of "Paul and King Agrippa II" is a great example of challenges to Evangelism. The Apostle Paul gave his personal testimony of conversion and his statement of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He gave his testimony regardless of the situation or circumstance. Paul had many divine appointments and was available and willing to meet those appointments regardless of the personal cost. It is with a "Holy Boldness" that Paul addressed governors Festus, Felix, and King Agrippa II to present the gospel of Jesus Christ and to evangelize them.

### In Depth:

King Agrippa II while visiting the new governor, Felix, was given an opportunity to hear Apostle Paul plead his case to refute the charges that his actions would overthrow the Roman government. King Agrippa II while visiting Felix agreed to hear Paul's case. Accompanying King Agrippa II was his sister, Bernice, other rich/important families, Roman and Jewish officials.

It is at this time that King Agrippa II and his entourage had the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ. But, there were many challenges to Paul's evangelism. What were they? Were the challenges spiritual in nature? Read Ephesians 6:12. What were the challenges King Agrippa II had to overcome? Read Luke 18:25.

Summary:

The Apostle Paul did what he was required to do as a believer in Jesus Christ. King Agrippa II was not yet convinced to become a Christian, but he now knew the truth of Jesus Christ.

There is a story that provides a great summary. The story is: A woman was lost in the mountains. All night she wandered, seeking the way home. At length she sank down and died as the dawn was breaking. In the morning they found her but a few steps from the door of the hotel, which she was struggling to reach.

*Close about heaven's gate millions of souls perish –almost saved yet lost! Lost for all eternity!!*

Conclusion:

It is not enough that we are saved ourselves; we must share the Good News; we must try to save our lost friends, family members, neighbors, enemies, and acquaintances by sharing Jesus Christ with them. Remember to just invite them to church and let God do the rest. If you are asked why you go – share your testimony. (See I Peter 3:14 – 16).

Question(s) for Discussion:

1. Who was actually imprisoned Apostle Paul or King Agrippa II? And why?
2. Who was influenced by King Agrippa II's refusal to accept Jesus Christ? Do you know anyone whose refusal to accept Jesus Christ is influencing others?
3. You are considered rich, influential, and powerful. How did you come to know Jesus Christ? What were your challenges?

## **Ephesians 6:12 (King James Version)**

12For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

## **1 Peter 3:14-16 (Contemporary English Version)**

14Even if you have to suffer for doing good things, God will bless you. So stop being afraid and don't worry about what people might do. 15Honor Christ and let him be the Lord of your life.

Always be ready to give an answer when someone asks you about your hope. 16Give a kind and respectful answer and keep your conscience clear. This way you will make people ashamed for saying bad things about your good conduct as a follower of Christ.

## **Luke 18:25 (New International Version)**

Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the **eye** of a **needle** than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."