

Chapter Twenty-Six

Chapter 26

- In Matthew 10:18-20, Yeshua tells the disciples, “Yes, and you will be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony to them and to the nations. But when they deliver you up, don’t be anxious how or what you will say, for it will be given you in that hour what you will say.”
 - How might these words have comforted Paul as he was standing before King Agrippa and the assembly?
 - How important might this same promise become to us in our days as well?
- In verse 2, Paul states his intention to enter a defense, “concerning all the things that I am accused by the Judeans”.
 - According to Acts 25:8, what were the three things the Judeans charged against him?

- In verse 3, do you think Paul was flattering the king or do you think he knew that King Agrippa really was aware of the issues involved?
- In verses 4-5, Paul makes a claim regarding his public conduct, from his youth up, regarding his strict adherence to the sect of the Pharisees.
 - Would Paul have made this claim if he knew his claim could be challenged?
 - His added statement, “if they are willing to testify”, is a not-so-subtle challenge to his opponents, essentially saying, “Put up or shut up”.
 - How important is the public conduct of our life as we stand as a witness for Messiah?
- In verses 6-8, Paul states the content of the charge against him and puts it in context.
 - Does he state this in terms of some “new Christian teaching” outside the framework of Judaism or does he base this squarely on the Torah?
 - If it is possible for the Jewish fathers and all the

twelve tribes of Israel to believe in the resurrection, why would it not be possible to believe in the resurrection of Yeshua?

- In verses 9-11, Paul relates his history of being on the other side of the issue and the degree of zeal with which he persecuted the believers.
- In verses 12-18, Paul relates his testimony of how Yeshua revealed Himself to him and also promised further revelation.
 - In sharing his testimony, do you sense that Paul is including important segments designed to bring truth and conviction?
 - As Paul is defending himself, do you think he has an eye towards witnessing to his audience?
 - How might this be a good example for us to remember when we find ourselves “under attack” from opposition?
- In verses 19-20, Paul relates how he was faithful to his newly assigned mission to Jews and gentiles alike.
- In verse 21, what does Paul say was the reason behind

his having been seized and threatened in the Temple?

- In verses 22-23, Paul made several claims.
 - According to Paul, where does his help come from?
 - When Paul states that he is testifying, “saying nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said would happen”, does that sound like he is anti-Torah?
 - What theology regarding Messiah does Paul draw from the Prophets and Moses?
- In verse 24, what was the reaction of Festus who was present during Paul’s presentation?
 - Do you think his reaction was a thoughtful response or a fleshly reaction?
 - Is it possible that there was an element of conviction involved that his defense mechanisms were reacting to?
 - Is it reasonable to expect similar reactions from people as we witness to them?
- How does Paul respond in verse 25?

- Are you prepared to “boldly declare words of truth and reasonableness”?
- In verses 26-27, Paul refocuses on King Agrippa.
 - How important is the claim that the passion and resurrection of Yeshua was well known and not something done in secret?
 - How does Paul’s appeal to this very public knowledge add weight to his claim?
 - What body of Scripture does Paul appeal to in support of these Messianic claims?
 - How does this apply to King Agrippa?
- According to verse 28, does King Agrippa know what Paul is talking about and trying to do?
 - Does his awareness of this buttress the idea that Paul was correct in verse 3 about the King’s knowledge?
- In verse 29, Paul broadens his appeal to his entire audience.
 - How have these proceedings changed from being about charges against Paul to being about a convict-

ing gospel message to all those present?

- How is that a good example for us to follow when we are attacked?
- In verses 30-32, we see the resolution to these proceedings.
 - What did they conclude in verse 31?
 - What was King Agrippa's conclusion in verse 32?