

sermon notes

March 1, 2025 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **No Other Name**
“Things Aren’t Always What They Seem” | **Acts 25:13–26:32**

- 1) Sometimes the _____ is more _____ than the rulers (25:13–27)

- 2) Sometimes the _____ of the _____ gets saved (26:1–23)

- 3) Sometimes the one called _____ is actually _____ speaking truth (26:24–32)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Acts 25:13–27. Compare and contrast Paul’s appearance in the assembly with the pomp of King Agrippa, Bernice, and Festus. Who appears more honorable from the world’s perspective? What about from God’s perspective?

Read Acts 26:1–32. Why didn’t Paul try harder to defend himself with the charges made against him? What was his objective in speaking before Agrippa?

What is the promise to which Paul refers in Acts 26:6–7? What does Paul’s question in verse 8 have to do with this promise? Why is resurrection such an essential element of the gospel?

Why do you think Festus blurted out, “Paul, you are out of your mind” in 26:24? What is significant about Paul’s response to Festus in verse 25? Why do you think Festus had such difficulty accepting Paul’s statements? How does this exchange between Paul and Festus reflect the truth found in 1 Corinthians 1:18–31?

GET PERSONAL

Paul gives statements about his life before Christ (Acts 26:4–11), his encounter with Christ (Acts 26:12–15), and his transformation after Christ (Acts 26:16–23). How is your personal testimony similar to and different from Paul’s? What was life like for you before Christ? What about after Christ?

Does fear of appearing foolish for Christ ever restrain your obedience? What would boldness for Christ look like? Are you willing to be labeled “crazy” by the world?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What can you learn from the way that Paul shares his testimony? Why is Paul so candid about his sinfulness before his conversion? Why is this an important part of his testimony? Why do you think he mentions this in front of such prominent people as Agrippa, Bernice, and Festus? What parts of your pre-conversion story are you tempted to minimize? How might humility about your sin actually strengthen your witness?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What does Paul mean by “repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with repentance” in 26:20? How would you distinguish between “performing deeds in keeping with repentance” and “works-based” salvation? How does repentance interrelate to saving faith in Christ?