



Title | A Reasonable Defense
Series | The Church That Changed the World
Text | Acts 26:1-32
By | Bob Kerrey
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Sermon Notes

Acts 26:1 So Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense: **2** “I consider myself fortunate that it is before you, King Agrippa, I am going to make my defense today against all the accusations of the Jews, **3** especially because you are familiar with all the customs and controversies of the Jews. Therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently. **4** My manner of life from my youth, spent from the beginning among my own nation and in Jerusalem, is known by all the Jews. **5** They have known for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that according to the strictest party of our religion I have lived as a Pharisee. **6** And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, **7** to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! **8** Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?” *ESV*

Big Idea:

Acts 26:23 “that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles.” *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read Acts 26:1-32. In verse 14, what does it mean to “kick against the goads?” In verse 15, what motivation would Paul have for lying about his encounter with the risen Jesus? In verse 25, Paul describes his defense as “rational.” Specifically, what makes it rational?

Tuesday:

Read Acts 26:22-23 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12. How do these passages relate?

Wednesday:

Read Acts 26:24. Do you think Festus truly believes that Paul is out of his mind? Why or why not? If not, why would he say this? Do you think this is a typical response to the gospel?

Thursday:

Read Acts 26:27-28. Why doesn't Agrippa answer the question? What does he do instead? Do you think this is a typical response to the gospel?

Friday:

From Acts 26:1-32, how can you follow Paul's example in sharing your own story of what the Lord has done in your life?

Daily Prayer:

Lord, give me the opportunity and the courage to share my story of what you have done in my life. Amen.

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