

Sermon Topic: By All Means Save Some by Preacher Richard Seow

Sermon Text: Acts 25-26, 1 Cor 9:22

Outline of 2 Chapters

Acts 25

- 1-5, Festus rejected Jewish authorities' request to bring Paul to Jerusalem
- 6-13, Paul brought before Festus; Paul appealed to Caesar
- 14-21, Festus introduced Paul's case to King Agrippa

Acts 26

Paul's defence before Festus and Agrippa

- 2-11, Paul recounted pre-conversion life
- 12-18 Paul described encounters with Christ
- 19-23 Paul described post-conversion life
- 24-32 Festus called Paul insane; Paul turned attention to King Agrippa

Agrippa: Do you think that in such a short time, you can persuade me to be a Christian? (Acts 26:28)

Paul: Short time or long – I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains (Acts 26:29)

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (NIV)

¹⁹ Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. ²³ I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Principles of Evangelism

That I might by all means save some

- **instrumentality of human agents**
 - Few saved like Paul by direct encounter by Christ
 - Most/almost all need to hear from a human witness (Romans 10:14 - ...how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?)

I have become all things to all men

- **Adaptability**
 - ... to the Jews I became as a Jew.. to those who are under the law... to those who are without law, as without law (not bring without law towards God, but under law towards Christ),... to the weak I became as weak

.. save some (not all would be saved)

1. Acknowledgement that **not all will respond favourably**
2. (John 3:16, NIV) For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Our response

1. God, give me the **same evangelistic fervor** Paul had.
 - I pray to God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am (Acts 26-29)
 - For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethen, my countrymen accordingly to the flesh,... (Romans 9:3)
2. God, help me in all situations to present the Gospel in a way that will be **most accessible** to the persons that you lead me to
 - Paul's willingness to be all things to all men
 - but not populist preaching; beware warning
3. God, **help me go do all I can** for the good of others, to share the message of the Gospel whenever I have the chance, because only you know what will come out of it
 - By all means save some
 - Sowing continually, reaping whenever possible

SUCCESS IN EVANGELISM : Sharing the Gospel of Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and leaving the outcome to God

Discussion Questions

1. In Acts 26: 4–14 Paul told his story. What were his major points?
2. What did Paul appeal to in verses 19–23? How did he summarize the Gospel? In verse 24, how did Festus respond? Why? How did Paul respond? Why do you think Paul asked King Agrippa if he believed in the prophets?
3. In verse 28, King Agrippa answered Paul's question with a question of his own. What feeling was Agrippa expressing? What do you see about Paul's passion for and vision for the Gospel in his heartfelt statement in verse 29? How does this compare with your passion for the Gospel?