The Book of Acts Lesson 47

Acts 26:19-32

“Sharing the Gospel”

Introduction: Festus had heard enough! Paul had lost his marbles!

Definition: “thou are beside thyself…mad” - to be mad, to rave; one who so speaks so that he seems not to be in his right mind; to be insane; people whose words or actions fly in the face of common sense (talking to yourself in the mall), whose reasoning or conduct is not understood

I. Realize that the world thinks we are crazy (26:24)

 A. Crazy for devoting time to the Book.

 1. What does the Word say about Bible study?

 a. Eccl. 12 – Weariness of the flesh

 b. Jn. 539 – Commanded by the Savior

#  c. 1 Tim. 4:15 – Worthy of devoting whole life

 d. 2 Tim. 2:15 – Requires diligence

 e. 2 Tim. 3:16 – It is profitable

 2. Do you have enough evidence to be accused of being crazy about the Bible?

 a. “much learning” (too heavenly minded to be any earthly good)

 b. “Too much learning alters the perspective, puts one out of touch with the real world.”

 B. Crazy for believing the Book.

 1. God can change such a vile person?

 2. God can forgive such a sinner?

 3. Christ died, rose again and is coming back?

 4. Repentance is necessary for eternal salvation?

 C. Crazy for living by the Book.

 1. Going the extra mile

 2. Giving 10% of your income

 3. Going to church on your day off

 4. Talking to someone about the Lord

 5. Giving up drinking, smoking, cussing

 6. Praying for your enemy

II. Realize that only the Word of God makes sense of life (26:25)

 A. The Word reveals the deceitfulness of sin.

 1. Deceived by riches – 1 Tim. 6:10 “*For the Love of money is the root of all evil:”*

 2. Deceived by pleasure – Lk. 15:13 *“And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.”*

3. Deceived by flattery – Prov. 7:21 *“With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him to yield.”*

 B. The Word reveals the destruction awaiting the sinner.

1. All who reject God will perish. John 3:18 *“He that believer on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hat hot believed in the name of the only begotten son of God.”*

2. All deserve to hear about the hope of eternal salvation. 2Peter 3:9 *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”*

 C. The Word reveals the work of the Savior.

 1. To place a man in his right mind – Mk. 5:19

 2. To set a man on the right path – Acts 26

 3. To bring a man to the right destination – Jn. 14:3 *“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may be also.”*

 D. The Word reveals the way to salvation.

III. Realize that You Possess Your Full Senses in the Holy Spirit!

 A. The Testimony of the Gospel (19-23)

 1. A Testimony of Repentance.

 a. Paul was not calling on people to make Jesus a part of their spiritual journey.

 b. Paul was calling on people to repent.

 c. The phrase “works for repentance” teaches that if is saved, then there will be a life change.

 1) Works do not save.

 2) Works are a manifestation of salvation.

 2. Testimony of Truth.

 a. Paul was preaching the same message Jesus preached.

 b. Paul was teaching the same truths that Jesus taught His disciples.

 B. Testing of the Apostle (21-24)

 1. There was a Constant Testing.

 a. Festus’ was the Roman governor who took Felix’s place.

 b. Festus’ interruption was a typical response of an unsaved man.

 1) He saw the resurrection as illogical and religious superstition.

 2) His confidence was in the facts that the senses could evaluate.

 3) His confidence was not in immaterial and abstract things which take faith to believe.

 c. There will be fervent opposition whenever the Gospel is going out.

 2. There was Consistent Help.

 a. The Lord was with Paul in every trial he faced.

 b. Though maybe separated from his human companions, he always had the presence of Christ as his

 comfort.

 3. There was Continual Witnessing

 a. The Greek word translated “witnessing” is martureo

 1) which means to bear witness

` 2) to affirm that one has seen, heard or experienced

 b. Paul was no respecter of person; he witnessed to both small and great.

 C. The Tragedy of Unbelief

 1. Paul’s Persuasiveness

 a. Paul directed his comments toward Agrippa

 1) Paul spoke as through Agrippa was fully aware of Jesus’ ministry

 2) Jesus crisscrossed Galilee, Judea and surrounding areas for three years

 (a) proclaiming His message of truth

 (b) performing miracles with great power

 3) The news of Jesus and His ministry were well known and highly exposed

 4) Agrippa knew by personal witness or by reports

 b. Paul became persuasive toward Agrippa

 1) Paul pressed for Agrippa to acknowledge the truth and to admit he believed it.

 2) Paul ceased to be the advocate for his own defense and became God’s advocate to a king’s

 conscience

 2. Agrippa’s Evasiveness

 a. Agrippa was engulfed with conviction that only the Holy Spirit can bring.

 b. But Agrippa refused what he knew to be true.

 1) It could have been fear of other leaders’ ridicule

 2) It could have been fear of embarrassment in court

 3) It could have been pride

 3. Holy Spirit’s Gentleness

 a. Paul pleaded with emotion.

 1) Paul, though in chains, was free on the inside

 2) Those there who were free of chains were in bondage to their sin and its consequences.

 b. No one will ever regret pleading with another to get saved.

Conclusion:

Agrippa and his party left unsaved. The scriptures mentions that they rose one by one and walked away from salvation.

Paul did his part in preaching the Gospel, but on that day, the hearers refused the message of salvation.

We are not the soul**winner**. The Holy Spirit is the soul**winner**. This does not mean that we should be discouraged from being faithful witnesses actively working so see souls saved. We are just the vessel the Spirit uses to win their souls.