

ALMOST DOESN'T DO IT

Acts 26:13-28

Introduction: The story of King Agrippa "almost" believing Paul's witness about Jesus has been repeated countless times since with other characters taking King Agrippa and Paul's roles. Countless men and women have been told about God's love, Jesus' sacrifice and Their invitation to believe and the same response of King Agrippa given, "I am almost ready to believe." When do those who have been "almost" ready to believe, actually believe? Sadly most do not and many never get another opportunity as they are ushered into eternity still unbelieving. "Almost" just doesn't do it.

I. KING AGRIPPA HAD HIS CHANCE TO BE SAVED

1. Paul had accumulated many enemies because of his fearless preaching about Jesus. He had been beaten, lied about, imprisoned and now in chains before the king who had given Paul the opportunity to speak on his own behalf.
2. What would you or I want to say on our behalf if we found ourselves in the same situation and given the opportunity to speak on our own behalf?
 - Would we begin to tell the judge (king) how innocent we were and how the others had lied about us and give a dozen reasons why we should be released?
 - Who among us would do as Paul and not utter a single word of defense but try to win the judge (king) to the Lord Jesus?
3. Paul asked the king to be patient and hear him out.
 - Paul was about to tell the king how he could be freed from the chains of cowardness, pride, lust and sin and how he could have eternal life.
 - Paul began by telling his background and then how he met Jesus and then what the Prophets had said about the promised One, how He would come, suffer, die and rise from the dead.
 - Paul never grew tired of talking about Jesus. From the day he was saved to this day he was witnessing to the king, he never missed an opportunity to witness for the Lord.
 - Here before the king stood Paul, highly educated, the greatest teacher, most profound theologian, perhaps the greatest soul winner of all and Paul could answer any of the king's questions, but the king turned Paul down.
 - One of the listeners butted in Paul's witness and blurted out that Paul was insane and reminded Paul that the king already knew most of what Paul was saying.
 - If ever a man had the wonderful opportunity to be saved, it was this king Agrippa and he ALMOST said yes, but he said "no."
4. Today, YOU have another chance to be saved, right now. You could have already died and gone to Hell, but you didn't and you have another chance to be saved right now. Take it!
5. Do you know somebody who was suddenly stricken down, killed, died? Yes you do. ***"...it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment..."*** ***"...boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth..."***
 - There is no place in the Bible that states that you can reject Christ today and be saved tomorrow.

II. THE KING KNEW HOW TO BE SAVED

1. The king knew all about Paul's background, his arrest, his lying accusers and when Paul got through witnessing, the king also knew how to be saved.
2. Paul knew that the king believed the Prophets.
 - The king believed what the Bible of his day had to say about the promised one yet he was still lost. He refused to believe and receive the Messiah his Bible has spoken about, the One Paul had told him about.
 - It is not enough to KNOW about Jesus Christ. It is not enough to believe everything the Bible says about Jesus Christ, you must RECEIVE Him as your Lord and Savior.
3. King Agrippa knew about Christ, the Messiah and believed the recorded word about the Messiah, but he wasn't saved and he knew that, too. He was deeply stirred but he said NO and it cost him his soul.
 - If you know what the Bible says about Jesus and how to be saved and die without receiving the Lord Jesus Christ, refusing to trust Him, then you will answer in judgment for the opportunities you have had to be saved.

III. AT JUDGMENT DAY IT WILL BE WORSE FOR SOME THAN FOR OTHERS

1. *Matthew 11:20-24*
2. Jesus warned that it was going to be worse for those who have heard the Gospel than for those who never got to hear it, worse for those who had opportunities to be saved and refused than for those who never had the opportunity.
 - If YOU know how to be saved and refuse to be saved, it will be worse for you than if you had never known.
3. Facts you should know:
 - You are a sinner, born with a sinful nature.
 - You are by nature a child of "wrath."
 - You are not a sinner because you sin as much as you sin because you are a sinner.
 - You are not what you are because of what you do but you do what you do because of what you are.
 - If you believe you are not a sinner, then you do not believe the Bible.
 - The penalty of sin is death. *"...for the wages of sin is death..."* physical death, then Hell.
 - Jesus Christ came to pay the wages of sin that you might be saved. *"...for the son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost..." (John 3:16)*
4. Why did Jesus Christ have to die? Because it is the only way.
 - Jesus Christ demonstrated His love for us by going to the cross.
 - Jesus is at God the Father's right hand now and He is the way to forgiveness, He is the way to peace, and He is the way to God.
5. We are saved by Grace, not by works.
 - Nobody has a shadow of a chance to be saved by his/her works. Something else is needed and that is the Grace of God. *"Salvation is not of works, lest any man should boast."*

IV. KING AGRIPPA MADE THE WRONG DECISION

1. The king knew how to be saved. He had his opportunity and he ALMOST said "yes" but instead he said "no" and it cost him his soul. The same thing can happen to YOU.
2. There is danger in delay. *"Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."*
 - One more delay might mean your soul and it will be your own fault if you die lost. It will be because you hesitated, you put it off, just once too often.
3. King Agrippa loved his way of life and sins too much to give them up and repent. He knew how to be saved and had his chance. He lost his soul.

CONCLUSION:

1. Do what you know you should do, do it right now, be saved now, receive the loving Lord while you can. Don't say tomorrow.
 - Right now, while you know that God is speaking to you, right now while your heart is tender, right now while you are thinking about it, right now while you are still able.
 - You are facing the greatest decision of your life, you are almost persuaded, make your decision for Jesus Christ right now.
2. If you are lost, you have never received Jesus Christ and leave here as you came in, there is no way you can know that you will ever have an opportunity as this again. Will you do as this king did? If you do, you will meet him personally, face to face someday -
IN HELL.