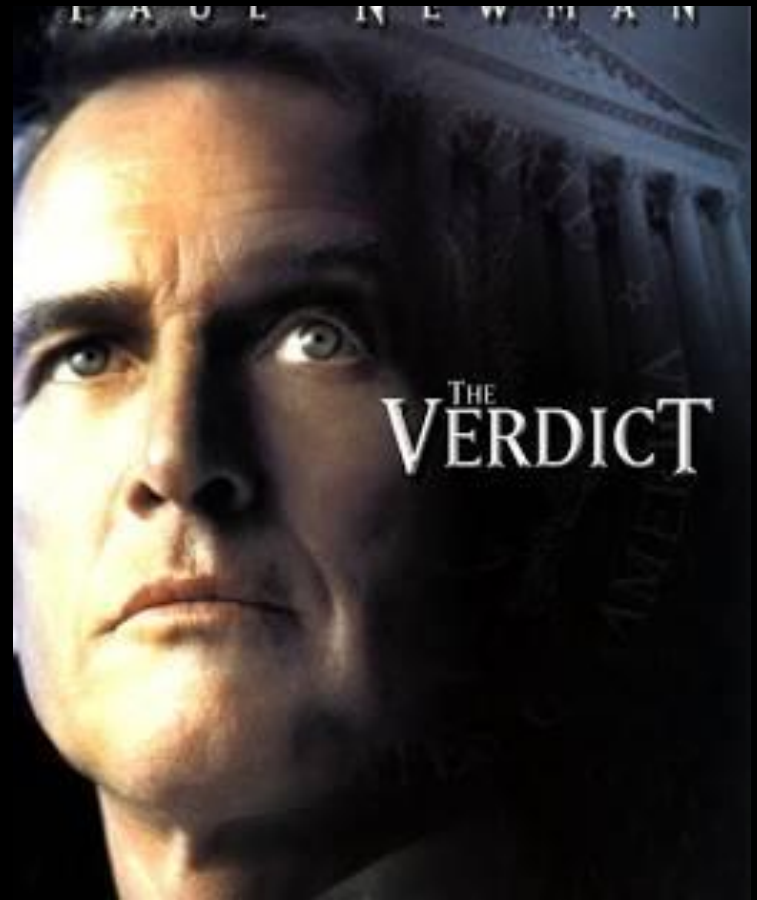




Turning a Trial into a
Testimony for the Gospel

Acts 25-26

ATIME
TO KILL



TOM
CRUISE

JACK
NICHOLSON

DEMI
MOORE



JOHN DAHLER
A FEW GOOD MEN

KEVIN BAUM, DEBBY SUTHERLAND, KEVIN MULLAN

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Turning a Trial into a
Testimony for the Gospel

Acts 25-26

❖ The Set Up for the Trial. Acts 25

❖ The Defense before King Agrippa. Acts 26

The False Charges.

Teaching contrary to the Jewish people, the Mosaic law, and what is going on in the Temple.

Acts 25:1-22

- Governor Festus meets Jewish leaders in Jerusalem
- Jewish leaders go to Caesarea to bring charges against Paul.
- Unable to prove charges.
- King Agrippa arrives in Caesarea.

Contrasting Entrances

So on the next day Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and they entered the audience hall with the military tribunes and the prominent men of the city. Then, at the command of Festus, Paul was brought in.

Acts 25:23

God prepared Paul for this.

...a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. Acts 9:15

The Spirit was Paul's empowerment.

... “His letters are weighty and strong, but his bodily presence is weak, and his speech of no account.” 2 Corinthians 10:10

The Spirit was Paul's empowerment.

...“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

...the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses.

Romans 8:26

✓ *Get prepared. Continue to grow.*

✓ *Rely on the empowerment of the Spirit.*

The Defense before King Agrippa.

¹ So Agrippa said to Paul, “You have permission to speak for yourself.” Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defense:

The Defense before King Agrippa.

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.

Paul's Jewish Upbringing.

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.

Paul's Jewish Upbringing.

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?

Paul's identification with opponents.

9 "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. ¹⁰ And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. ¹¹ And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

Paul's conversion.

¹²“In this connection I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests.

¹³At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, that shone around me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’

Paul's conversion & Commission.

¹⁵ And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.

¹⁶ But rise and stand upon your feet, for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a servant and witness to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you,

Paul's conversion & Commission.

¹⁷ delivering you from your people and from the Gentiles—to whom I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

Paul's conversion & Commission.

¹⁹“Therefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout all the region of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds in keeping with their repentance.

²¹ For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me. ²² To this day I have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass: 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.”

The Response of *Festus and Agrippa*.

²⁴ And as he was saying these things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, “Paul, you are out of your mind; your great learning is driving you out of your mind.”

²⁵ But Paul said, “I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words. ²⁶ For the king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly. For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner. ²⁷ King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe.”

The Response of *Festus and Agrippa*.

²⁸ And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?”

²⁹ And Paul said, “Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am—except for these chains.”

The Response of *Festus and Agrippa*.

³⁰ Then the king rose, and the governor and Bernice and those who were sitting with them.

³¹ And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” ³² And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”



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Acts 25-26