

Non-Conversions of Elymas, Felix, and Agrippa—Acts 13, 24, 26

A sorcerer in Acts 13

Felix, a governor in Acts 24

Agrippa, a king, in Acts 26.

Elymas, A child of the Devil, Rejects the Gospel Acts 13:1-12

Acts 13:2-3

2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

They Proclaimed the Word of God

Acts 13:4-5

4 The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus. 5 When they arrived at Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. John was with them as their helper.

Sergius Paulus Wanted to Hear the Word of God

Acts 13:6-7

6 They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, 7 who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.

Elymus Tried to Turn the Proconsul Away from the Faith

Acts 13:8

8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.

Paul Pronounced Elymus a Child of the Devil

Acts 13:9-

9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, 10 "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? 11 Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun."

The Proconsul Believed the Teaching

Acts 13:11b-12

Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12 When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

John 8:31-32

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

John 8:42-44

Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say. 44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him.

Felix Never Found a Convenient Time to Obey the Gospel Acts 24:17-27

Paul Preached the Resurrection

Acts 24:20-21

20 Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin— 21 unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: 'It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.'

Paul Spoke about Faith in Christ

Acts 24:24-26

24 Several days later Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was a Jewess. He sent for Paul and listened to him as he spoke about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 As Paul discoursed on righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come,

Felix Was Afraid but Sought a Convenient Time

Acts 24:25-27

Felix was afraid and said, "That's enough for now! You may leave. When I find it convenient, I will send for you." 26 At the same time he was hoping that Paul would offer him a bribe, so he sent for him frequently and talked with him.

27 When two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, but because Felix wanted to grant a favor to the Jews, he left Paul in prison.

Many Then and Now Seek a More Convenient Time

John 12:42-43:

Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not confess their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved praise from men more than praise from God."

2 Cor 6:2,

I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

King Agrippa Was Never Persuaded to Obey the Gospel Acts 26:19-30

Paul Preached Repentance and Obedience

Acts 26:19-20

19 "So then, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the vision from heaven. 20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.

Paul Preached the Gospel

Acts 26:21-23

21 That is why the Jews seized me in the temple courts and tried to kill me. 22 But I have had God's help to this very day, and so I stand here and testify to small and great alike. I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— 23 that the Christ would suffer and, as the first to rise from the dead, would proclaim light to his own people and to the Gentiles."

King Agrippa Believed

Acts 26:24-27

24 At this point Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane."

25 "I am not insane, most excellent Festus," Paul replied. "What I am saying is true and reasonable. 26 The king is familiar with these things, and I can speak freely to him. I am convinced that none of this has escaped his notice, because it was not done in a corner. 27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do."

Agrippa Almost Was Persuaded

Acst 26:28-31

28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "**Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?**"

29 Paul replied, "Short time or long – I pray God that not only you but all who are listening to me today may become what I am, except for these chains."

30 The king rose, and with him the governor and Bernice and those sitting with them. 31 They left the room, and while talking with one another, they said, "This man is not doing anything that deserves death or imprisonment."

Acts 26:28 KJV

You almost persuade me to become a Christian."

Acts 26:28 ASV

28 And Agrippa (said) unto Paul, With but little persuasion thou wouldest fain make me a Christian.

Acts 26:28 Greek

Paul, almost me thou persuadest a Christian to be.

Conclusion

Do not follow the devil.

Do not seek a more convenient time.

Do not be almost persuaded.