Radical Hope

Acts 26:1-8 | Ryan Pfeiffer | November 8, 2026

INTRO. I LOVE the way Paul frames this entire trial… v8 Why should any of you consider it incredible that God raises the dead?

On the surface… what a crazy thing to say! But not if you're hope is in Jesus!

Paul's HOPE in the resurrection radically changed how Paul saw everything!

- **It framed how he saw everyone at that trial…**
- **It framed how he saw himself even when everyone thought he was insane!**

Paul models how to live in this world, not angry, fearful, but HOPE-FILLED!

More than ever we need this HOPE! A hope that transcends our trials

Where do you need this kind of radical hope w/ political landscape… future… personal— your marriage, health, kids…

In the face of Cancer… Pastor, Author Tim Keller— In the resurrection we have the presence of the future. The power by which God will finally destroy all suffering, evil, deformity, and death at the end of time has broken into history now and is available— partially but substantially— now. —Hope in Times of Fear.

This kind of HOPE reframes how we see ourselves/ others in at least 2 ways:

FOCUS. 1) There's nobody Jesus can't reach 2) Nobody Jesus can't use.

THERE'S NOBODY JESUS CAN'T REACH. READ vss 9-11.

If there was somebody Jesus couldn't reach it would have been Paul!

1. **He was (v9) convinced he had to oppose the name of Jesus!**
2. **He was (v11) obsessed with persecuting Christians.**

Not all will believe, but There is no type of person Jesus can't reach!

It's this kind of radical hope that moves Paul to see faith in Agrippa!

27 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know you do." 28 Then Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think that in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?

Agrippa comes from a long line of wicked people…

- **Great-Grandfather— Herod the Great killed a village of boys to kill Jesus**
- **Great-Uncle— Herod Antipas had John the Baptist be-headed!**
- **Father— Herod Agrippa I… killed James the apostle…**

Yet Paul doesn't treat Agrippa like a lost cause… rather sees faith in him!

For Christ's love compels us because we are convinced that one died for all… So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. — 2 Cor 5:14,16.

ILLUS. La Jolla Shores evangelism. It was the guy I never expected!

THERE'S NOBODY JESUS CAN'T USE. (Back to Paul's testimony) vss 15-18.

V17 I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God…

There are many reasons why we might feel God can't use us. Look at Paul:

- **His Past. He was a persecutor, a murderer, a Pharisee!**

Listen to God's word… Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Cor 5:17.

Is the enemy holding your past over your head?

What you've done… What's been done to you! God can redeem you… Use you!

1. His Present moment. He was in chains. People thought he was insane!

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.

What reasons do you have God can't use you? … "I'm too afraid. I don't know enough. I don't care enough. I'm too busy!"

We may easily be too big for God to use, but never too small. —DL Moody. 5th grade!

If our hope's in our charisma, abilities… we're either going to…

- **Power up on Ego 2. Cower down in Timidity.**

HOPE IN CHRIST MAKES US HUMBLE AND BOLD!

ILLUS. Dr Chauncey Crandall… I felt embarrassed by the impulse to pray for him!

INVITE WORSHIP TEAM UP.

V29 "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.

Paul's not saying he wants everyone to be s short bald Jewish man… or share this favorite color… or love the Padres like he does…

He wants everyone to know the Hope in Christ that changes a persons life…

It's not arrogant to want everyone to know God's love through Christ…

Maybe you're here today, and like Agrippa, you've heard about Jesus, but you've never personally surrendered your life to him.

Here's the good news:

There's nobody Jesus can't reach. And there's nobody Jesus can't redeem and use.

Jesus died for your sins. He rose from the grave to give you eternal life.

And because he lives, your past doesn't have to define you, your circumstances don't have to defeat you, and death doesn't have to be the end of your story.

The same Jesus who met Paul on the Damascus road is inviting you to trust him today.

2 Cor 6:2 Indeed, the 'right time' is now. Today is the day of salvation. (NLT)