

Almost Persuaded

Acts 26:24-29

Acts 26:27-29

27 King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.

28 Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

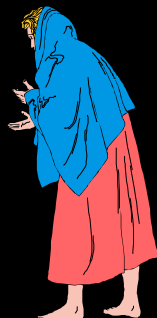
29 And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds. (KJV)

King Agrippa: Almost, But Lost

- He knew & believed the facts about Jesus
- But faith which does not obey is not enough
- The demons believe that much (*Jms. 2:19f*)
- Rulers would not confess Jesus (*Jno. 12:42f*)
- Principle: If know truth & continue in sin, no hope remains (*Heb. 10:26-31*)
- Must have faith & obedience (*Rom. 6:17f*)

Other Bible Characters Who Were Almost Saved

LOT'S WIFE (Genesis 19:15-26)



Remember Lot's Wife!

Lk. 17:32

- Escape for your life! ⚠ **Disregarded God's Commands**
- Do not look back! ⚠ **Lacked Faith and Courage**
- Escape to mountains! ⚠ **Failed To Fully Obey God**
- ⚠ **Failed To Keep Eyes on the Goal**
- ⚠ **Suffered Results of Disobedience**
- ⚠ **Failed To Flee To Safety**

Genesis 19:17, 26



LOT'S WIFE: Evil Influence Overcomes Good

- “Looked back” refers to longing look - desire
- Despite all of the evil seen in Sodom, it had become home and she wanted to return
- Evil relationship corrupt us (*1 Cor. 15:33*)
- Familiarity with sin breeds acceptance of its practice (*Psa. 1:1-2; Gal. 6:7*)
- Sure way to avoid evil (*Prov. 4:14-15*)

RICH RULER (*Lk. 18:18-23*)



RICH RULER (*Lk. 18:18-23*)

- Many things to his credit physically:
 - Rich
 - Young
 - Power, Authority
- Many things to his credit spiritually:
 - Asked the right question.
 - Recognized the authority of Jesus.
 - Reverent
 - Kept the Law from his youth.

RICH RULER: Materialism Over Salvation

- Rich ruler wanted salvation, but not enough
- Not willing to put Lord above material things
- Jesus requires the priority of spiritual service over all material concerns (*Mt. 6:19-33; 16:24*)
- Must follow example of Moses (*Heb. 11:24f*)
- Reminder concerning wealth (*1 Tim. 6:7-10*)
- Materialism: Bag without bottom (*Hag. 1:4f*)

FELIX (*Acts 24:24-27*)



FELIX: Fearful, But Delaying

- Felix was moved by first hearing of gospel.
- But delay made his heart grow cold to truth.
- We do not have any assurance of tomorrow. (*Jms. 4:13-17*)
- Procrastination before obeying shows other things have priority with us. (*Lk. 9:57-62*)
- If truth rejected as people close minds, not due to Bible's lack of clarity. (*Acts 28:23f*)

Am I “Almost” or “Altogether” Persuaded To Obey Christ Now?

- Has a knowledge of truth moved me to obey or do I remain unchanged as I reject gospel?
- Has my love for the sinful world caused me to come close to salvation, but look back?
- Has my pursuit of earthly things & concerns taken the priority over spiritual things?
- Has delaying obedience until a convenient time caused my heart to be hardened?
- Have relationships hindered me obeying?
- Must count cost to see if I am ready for it...

Luke 14:25-33

“If any man cometh unto me, and hateth not his own father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. Whosoever doth not bear his own cross, and cometh after me, cannot be my disciple. Who desiring to be a soldier, encampeth first. And as he that goeth in to fight with one man, he first sitteth down and reckoneth with his captain, whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and asketh conditions of peace. So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.” ASV

“...first sit down and count the cost...”

Luke 14:25-33

“If any man cometh unto me, and hateth not his own father, and mother, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. Whosoever doth not bear his own cross, and cometh after me, cannot be my disciple. Who desiring to be a soldier, encampeth first. And as he that goeth in to fight with one man, he first sitteth down and reckoneth with his captain, whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and asketh conditions of peace. So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounceth not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.”

Family

Hardship

Material Things

Everything

Costs To Be Counted

- Following Christ may cost relationship with family
 - *Lk. 14:26* Compared to love of Christ, hate family
 - *Mt. 10:34-37* Serving Lord may bring family trouble
- Following Christ may cost hardships in life
 - *Mt. 23:10* Following Christ may cost persecution
 - *2 Tim. 3:12* Following Christ may cost persecution
- Following Christ may cost things
 - *Ps. 119* Following Christ may cost things
 - *Mt. 19:16-22* Rich young ruler told to sell all & follow
 - *1 Tim. 6:17-19* Giving in service lays up eternal riches
- Following Christ will cost time (*Eph. 5:15-16*)
- Following Christ will cost whole self (*Rom. 12:1f*)

Must Serve God With The Whole Heart!

What Might It Cost Me?

- Following Christ may cost you family relationships
 - *“My mother & father may be hurt or mad if I obey”*
 - *“My family may reject me for putting Christ first”*
- Following Christ will cost you hardships in life
 - *“Living with my lusts”*
 - *“Following Christ”*
- Following Christ will cost you things
 - *“Giving up things”*
 - *“Does God really expect me to give for all these things?”*
- Following Christ will cost you in time
 - *“Sunday morning, Sunday night & Wed. is too much”*
 - *“You mean I must study, meditate & pray every day”*

Yes, serving Christ will affect your whole life!

Is Following Christ Worth The Cost To You?

Have You Considered The Cost Of Not Following Christ?

<u>HEAVEN</u>	<u>HELL</u>
•A Real Place!	•A Real Place!
•Unimaginable Joy!	•Unimaginable Horror!
•Only For Those Who Love God!	•Only For Those Who Hate God!
•A Place Of Perfect Joy!	•A Place Of Perfect Torment!
•Obedient There!	•Devil, evil, disobedient!
•No Desire To Escape!	•No Way of Escape!
•Can Forfeit or Gain!	•A Place To Avoid!

Where Will You Spend Eternity?