

# Agrippa

By: Shawn Bain

Paul stood in defense of "the way" before Herod Agrippa II, the great-grandson of Herod the Great, who tried to kill Jesus as an infant. Agrippa was the nephew of the Herod who had John the Baptist beheaded. By Agrippa's side was his sister Bernice, who it was rumored at that time, had an incestuous relationship with her brother. All this power, glittering crowns, and immorality sat in judgment of Paul.

Agrippa told Festus, "I also was wishing to hear the man (i.e. Paul) myself" (Acts 25:22). Amazing how a house that once tried to exterminate Christianity now desires to hear its message! Reviewing the history of Christianity, it is easy to see why one would want to hear Paul. This gospel had converted 5,000 people within the first few days of its beginning. Its teaching spread in spite of persecution. Now a man, "born out of due time" (1 Corinthians 15:8), has covered thousands of miles preaching a message where churches began and established good leadership in elders. Agrippa now wants to hear this message for himself. Paul was happy to oblige (Acts 26:2).

Paul said, "...king Agrippa,...thou art expert in all customs and questions which are among the Jews...I lived a Pharisee and...for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers...serving God night and day...I am accused." (Acts 26:3-7). He continued. "I shut up many of the saints...I gave my vote against them...I strove to make them blaspheme...I persecuted them" (v.9-11). "As I journeyed to Damascus...a light from heaven shone...I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision, but declared...throughout all the country...that they should repent and turn to God" (vv.12-20). Agrippa, "I am not mad...but speak forth words of truth and soberness" (v.25). "You, O king, knowest of these things, unto whom also I freely speak. I know that thou believest" (v.26,27).

The time of decision for Agrippa had come. Whether he needs more time or is just being sarcastic, Agrippa's actions speak louder than words. He walked away from the truth spoken by an innocent man (v.31). Agrippa's judgment of innocence proved himself guilty of pride and persecution of the Way. What a wonderful opportunity - Gone!

How different we would have looked at Herod Agrippa if he had risen to his feet, thrown down his crown, and committed himself to Jesus as the ruler of his life. He may have appeared as a fool before the world, but he would have been a success before God. The words "Almost" could have been replaced with Paul's own words, **"Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"**



## Kid's Column

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1) "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard." (Psalm 19:1-3)

"To say that a well-precisioned, mathematically created universe just happened, is about as credible as saying Webster's Unabridged Dictionary was accidentally published because of an explosion in a printing factory, or that a Boeing 747 was assembled when a tornado swept through a junk yard." (From Frank Pollard)

### Gods Plan Of Salvation

Hear, Romans 10:17, Believe, John-8:24, Repent, Luke 13:3, Confess, Romans-10:9-10, Baptism, Acts 2:38, Remain Faithful, Revelation 2:10

# seeking Truth

Southend Church of Christ,  
250 Hwy 317, Neon, Ky 41840  
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## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Study 10:00AM  
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6:00 PM  
**Everyone is Welcome To Attend!**

**Gospel Meeting**  
Sunday March 30<sup>th</sup> – Friday April 4<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday Bible study 10:00 AM  
Worship 11:00 AM  
Sunday evening 6:00 PM  
7:00 PM Nightly  
Speaker: Allen Shepherd



## Did Jesus Use Carnal Methods to Attract Crowds?

By: Greg Gwin

Many religious groups use a variety of carnal appeals to draw people to their assemblies. For instance, there are suppers and ice cream socials, ball games and entertainment events, etc. When asked to justify these activities they will commonly refer to the episodes where Jesus fed the multitudes. Some have said, "If you first feed a man's body, then you'll have a chance to feed his soul." Let's see if their reference to Jesus' activities will really support their practices. There were two separate instances in which Jesus miraculously fed huge crowds of people with small quantities of food. One time there were 5000 men, plus women and children (Mt. 14:15-21; Mk. 6:30-44; Lk. 9:10-17; Jn. 6:1-14). On another occasion, there were 4000 men, plus women and children (Mt. 15:32-38; Mk. 8:1-9).

In both instances, the people had followed Jesus to hear His marvelous teaching and to see His amazing miracles. There had never been a promise of food to draw them. In fact, both episodes show the people following long distances and for a long time before they were offered food. For example, in Matthew 15:32 we read: "Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way." Do you see it? The people were not lured to follow by an offer of food. The food came AFTERWARDS, as an act of compassion. The people had NOT come in anticipation of being fed.

We have one reference where Jesus suspected that the people did, indeed, come with a desire of receiving food (Jn. 6:22ff). On that occasion He DID NOT feed them! Those who would use the example of Jesus feeding the multitudes to justify their carnal practices today are simply wrong!