

# Where's Your Chair?

Acts 26 24-32



Great are the wonders you have done, O Lord my God.  
How great your designs for us! There is none that can be compared with you.  
If I were to proclaim them and tell of them  
they would be more than I am able to express. Psalm 40:5-6

## **Praising:**

Lord, speak to me that I may  
speak  
in living echoes of your tone;  
as you have sought, so let me  
seek  
your wandering children, lost,  
alone.

## **Reading:**

Acts 26:24-32  
Festus and Agrippa respond to  
Paul's testimony

Festus dismisses Paul's story as sheer madness. Sensing that Agrippa has been touched by the truth of what he has heard, Paul promptly gives voice to his observation. For Festus, the easy way out is to say that Paul has lost grip on reality. Agrippa's approach is to tease Paul that he has not persuaded him to become a Christian quite so

quickly as that. Paul leaves everyone present in no doubt that persuading people to become Christians is his avowed aim and purpose. None of those listening to Paul can see any reason why he should be on trial before anyone, let alone the Emperor. Having first summoned Paul to their presence in the audience hall, it is now Festus, Agrippa and party who leave Paul's presence – though he is still wearing the chains of the prisoner.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

We think Lord of those who make excuses for walking away from your truth

- who find it easier to think of Christians as needy, innocent or delusional
- who fear what it will cost them in personal terms to yield to the stirring of the Spirit
- who have been touched by Jesus' love but cannot bring themselves to love him back

Father: I pray for perception to recognise the barriers people raise to Christ, for grace to understand the reasons, and for loving boldness to name excuses for what they are. Amen

## **Doing:**

Friday, 15 July 2016