

## September 2025

*And as he was saying theses things in his defense, Festus said with a loud voice, "Paul, you are out of your mind." Acts 26:24*

The apostle Paul had been arrested and kept in custody for some time. Festus, the new recently installed governor of Judea, wanted to hear what Paul had to say concerning the charges brought against him by the chief priests and principle men of the people. When Paul was given the opportunity to speak before Festus (and King Agrippa who was also curious), he confessed the Gospel of Jesus with clarity. He spoke of the crucifixion of our Lord and the forgiveness sins. He proclaimed repentance. He talked about eyes being opened and men turning from darkness to light. He laid out that Jesus is the One foretold of from old and after suffering and dying has risen from the dead.

Paul gave a beautiful witness and spoke boldly of the truth. But upon hearing it Festus says, "Paul, you are out of your mind." That is to say that Festus thought Paul was being ridiculous. That he was crazy. That he was speaking foolishness. "Knock it off - you sound silly. You're embarrassing yourself." And Festus wanted everyone to join in at laughing at Paul because he doesn't just speak to Paul in a normal way, but rather "said with a loud voice... you are out of your mind."

Does this frighten you? Does the idea of someone laughing at you or calling you crazy or speaking loudly to you make you hide the hope that is within you? Are you afraid to be seen as different? Don't be. We should be different. We have the radical message of the man who gave His life for sinners and rose from the dead. Festus tried to get everyone to point and laugh at Paul because of this. Who cares. Paul didn't. Let them point and laugh. The truth will set you free. "I am not out of my mind, most excellent Festus, but I am speaking true and rational words," Acts 26:25.

When you speak the true and rational words of your Savior, some people may reject it right out of hand. They might even - like Jr. High kids in the hallway - try to be loud and get others to join in laughing or, as it seems in our day, to be outraged. But you are called to not be ashamed of the Gospel. It is the power of God for salvation (Rom. 1:16). Some may hear and believe. Some may want to hear a little more about this Jesus. That's good. It worth the risk of name calling. You are called to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9). It's your purpose as you navigate through this fallen world.

God grant you wisdom and strength to live as his people who bear witness through word and deed. "O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise" (Psalm 51:15).

In Christ,  
Pastor Suggitt

## LIFE QUOTE

Difficult situations like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can tempt us to forget our Savior's presence and power. Comfort comes not from making deals with death but from the gifts He brings and the privileges He brings even in and through hardship. An everlasting, unchanging, and all-sufficient Creator and Keeper not only provides life, He protects it as well!

*A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • [lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)*

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