

# Almost Persuaded

## Acts 26:27-29

(All Scripture NASB1995  
unless otherwise noted)

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## Acts 26:27-29

*“King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.’ Then Agrippa said to Paul, ‘You almost persuade me to become a Christian.’ And Paul said, ‘I would to God that not only you, but also all who hear me today, might become both almost and altogether such as I am, except for these chains.’”*  
(Acts 26:27-29 NKJV)

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## King Agrippa: Almost, But Lost

- He knew and believed the facts about Jesus
- But faith which does not obey is not enough
- The demons also believe (*James 2:19-24*)
- Rulers would not confess Jesus (*John 12:42-43*)
- Principle: If you know truth and continue in sin, no hope remains (*Hebrews 10:26-31*)
- Must have faith and obedience (*Romans 6:17-19*)

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## Other Bible Characters Who Were Almost Saved

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## LOT’S WIFE

### (*Genesis 19:15-26*)



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## Remember Lot’s Wife!

### Luke 17:32

- Escape for your life!  Disregarded God’s Commands
- Do not look back!  Lacked Faith and Courage
- Escape to the 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*

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## 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 relationships corrupt us  
(*1 Corinthians 15:33-34*)
- Familiarity with sin breeds acceptance of its practice (*Psalms 1:1-2; Galatians 6:7-8*)
- Sure way is to avoid evil (*Proverbs 4:14-15*)

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## RICH RULER

(*Luke 18:18-23*)



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## RICH RULER

(*Luke 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

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## 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  
(*Matthew 6:19-33;16:24*)

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## RICH RULER:

### Materialism Over Salvation

- Must follow example of Moses  
(*Hebrews 11:24-26*)
- Reminder concerning wealth  
(*1 Timothy 6:7-10*)
- Materialism: Purse with holes  
(*Haggai 1:4-6 – “bag with holes” NKJV*)

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## Antonius Felix

Roman governor of Judea  
from 52 to 60 AD

(*Acts 24:24-27*)

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### 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. (*James 4:13-17*)
- Procrastination before obeying shows that other things take priority. (*Luke 9:57-62*)
- If truth is rejected as people close their minds, it is not due to the Bible's lack of clarity. (*Acts 28:23-28*)

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### 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 and concerns taken the priority over spiritual things?
- Has delaying obedience until “a convenient time” caused my heart to be hardened?
- Have relationships kept me from obeying?
- **I must calculate the cost to see if I am ready!**

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### Luke 14:26-33

*“If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? ... first sit down and calculate the cost ...”*

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Family

Hardship

Material Things

Everything

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### Costs To Be Counted

- Following Christ may cost relationship with family
  - *Luke 14:26* Compared to love of Christ, “hate” family
  - Note: “yes, and even his own life ...”
  - *Matthew 10:34-37* Serving the Lord may bring family trouble
- Following Christ will cost with hardships in life
  - *Matthew 16:24-25* Deny self, take up cross and follow Christ
  - *2 Timothy 3:12* Christians will suffer persecution
  - *Matthew 5:11-12* Disciples will be insulted and accused
  - *Mark 13:13* Hated by all because of the name of Jesus

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### Costs To Be Counted

- Following Christ will cost our material things
  - *Matthew 19:16-22* Rich young ruler told to sell all and follow
  - *1 Timothy 6:17-19* Giving in service lays up eternal riches
- Following Christ will cost time (*Ephesians 5:15-16*)
- Following Christ will cost whole self (*Romans 12:1-2*)

**Must Serve God  
With The Whole Heart!  
Psalm 119**

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### What Might It Cost Me?

- Following Christ may cost you family relationships
  - “My mother and father may be hurt or mad if I obey”
  - “My family may reject me for putting Christ first”
- Following Christ will cost you in life
  - “...costs”
  - “...st”
- Following Christ will cost you in time
  - “Sunday morning, Sunday night, and Wednesday night is too much”
  - “You mean I must study, meditate, & pray every day?”

**Yes, serving Christ will affect your whole life!**

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### Is Following Christ Worth The Cost To You?

*Have You Considered The Cost Of NOT Following Christ?*

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<p><u>HEAVEN</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Real Place!</li> <li>• Unimaginable Joy!</li> <li>• Only The Faithful Few!</li> <li>• A Place of Reward!</li> <li>• Obedient There!</li> <li>• No Desire To Escape!</li> <li>• Can Forfeit or Gain!</li> </ul>	<p><u>HELL</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Real Place!</li> <li>• A Place of Horror!</li> <li>• Many Will Go There!</li> <li>• A Place of Endless Torment!</li> <li>• Devil, Evil, Disobedient There!</li> <li>• No Way of Escape!</li> <li>• A Place To Avoid!</li> </ul>
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**Where Will You Spend Eternity?**

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### How To Obey The Gospel of Jesus Christ

- Hear the word of God**  
(2 Thessalonians 2:14-15; James 1:21)
- Believe the gospel message**  
(Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24)
- Repent of sins**  
(Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30-31)
- Confess Jesus Christ**  
(Romans 10:10; Matthew 10:32-33)
- Be Baptized for Forgiveness of Sins**  
(Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27; Romans 6:3-4)
- Remain Obedient**  
(Matthew 7:21; Revelation 2:10; Hebrews 3:12)

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