Bridge That Was Too Short
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I. Introduction. (Acts 26)

II. Testimony before the king.

    A. Paul.

        1. A victim charged with such a generalized crime that no one could pin it down.

        2. He had committed no crime.

    B. His Testimony.

        1. He was of the strictest Jewish sect.

            a. Paul did not change his religion, he followed it to its conclusion: Jesus Christ.

            b. He claimed only that he took a step further from the Jews.

        2. His reply to Festus.

            a. Paul told him that he wished he had converted.

            b. Festus got out of Christianity by saying "almost."

                1) Almost is not enough.

                2) It is like a bridge that is good and sturdy, but is not long enough.

                    a) The travelers will perish.

                    b) This is exactly what happened to Agrippa.

                3) Festus dreamed, but he did not dream enough.

                    a) It is like a convicted criminal whose sentence was pardoned seconds too late

                    b) It is like a little girl who almost made it home in a snow storm.

                4) How Judas almost became Saint Judas.

                    a) Almost was not close enough.

III. The living dead are all around us.

    A. Hell is a hard subject to speak of, but it is true.

        1. It is a place where people go where God is not.

    B. There are too many people who are ordinary everyday people that almost came to Christ.

    C. Almost is not good enough.

        1. Almost is not good enough for coming to faith.

        2. Almost is not good enough for prayer.

        3. Almost is not good enough for witness.

        4. Almost is not good enough for sanctification.

Application questions.

1. Why was not Paul's conversion a change in religion? What is significant about this?
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2. What was so deadly about Festus's response to Paul? How would you reply to Festus?
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3. "Almost" is a common theme for the Christian and the non-Christian. What actions in your life need to go beyond almost? How will you make this happen?
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