Isifundo 12

**Mandulo 15-21*

Uyavalelwa eKesariya

NgeSabatha Ntambama

Kuleliviki Funda ku:
IZenzo 24, IZenzo 25, IZenzo 26, 1 Kor. 1:23.

Indimana Yekhanda:
"Noma ngokushesha noma cha, ngithandaza kuNkulunkulu ukuba kungabi uwena wedwa, kodwa bonke abangizwayo namuhla bangaba njengami—ngaphandle kwalezi zibopho"

Ukuthuthelwa kukaPawulu eKesariya kwaba yisiqalo sokuvalelwa ejele iminyaka emibili kulowo muzi (IZenzo 24:27), kahle kahle enqabeni kaHerode (IZenzo 23:35), okwakuyindawo yasemthethweni yokuhlala isikhulu saseRoma. Kuleyo minyaka, wayelokhu evela esigcawini lapho wavela khona phambi kwababusi ababili baseRoma (uFeliksi no Festu) kanye nenkosi (uAgripha wesibili), ngaleyo ndlela ephinde egcwalisa umsebenzi awunikwa nguNkulunkulu (IZenzo 9:15).

Kukho konke ukuvela kwakhe esigcawini, uPawulu wayelokhu esho ukuthi akanacala, esho ukuthi abukho bufakazi obungalethwa ukumlahla, njengoba kwabonakala ngokungabikho kofakazi. Empeleni, konke lokhu kuhloswe ngakho ukutshengisa ukuthi uPawulu akenzanga lutho olufanele ukuboshwa, nokuthi wayengakhululwa ukuba akaledluliselanga kuKhesari icala (IZenzo 26:32). Lokhu kuvela esigcawini kodwa, kwamnika amathuba okufakaza ngoJesu nethemba elikhulu elitholakala esithembisweni sovuko. Kodwa, leyo kwakuyiminyaka yokukhathazeka okukhulu kanye nokuvalelwa umphostoli ayengatholi nokuncane ukwesekelwa kukho okuvela ebandleni laseJerusalema abaholi balo ababelokhu benomuzwa wokuthi uPawulu kufanele athwale icala ngesimo sokucwasa esasikhona."—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles,* p. 403.

**Funda isifundo saleliviki ukulungisela iSabatha likaMandulo 22.*

Phambi kukaFeliksi

Ngemuva kwezinsuku ezinhlanu uPawulu ethuthelwe eKesariya, idlanzana labaholi ababalulekile bamaJuda—umpristi omkhulu, amalunga athile eSanhedrin, nesazimthetho ogama laso lingu Tertulu—bafika bevela eJerusalema bamangalela uPawulu ngokusemthethweni (IZenzo 24:1-9). Yileli kuphela icala kweyeZenzo lapho abamangali basebenzisa khona ummeli. Enkulumweni yakhe, uTertulu wazama iqhinga lokuthenga ubuso bombusi. Kwakungesilona iqiniso ukuthi ngaphansi kukaFeliksi, amaJuda ayehlezi ngokuthula isikhathi eside. Iqiniso ukuthi akekho omunye umbusi owake wacindezela ngesihluku njengesakhe, kanti lokho kwadala inzondo enkulu kumaJuda ngombuso wamaRoma. Ngokusebenzisa ukuhlakanipha okukhulu, uTertulu wasebenzisa inqubo-mgomo yombusi uqobo ukumbonisa ukuthi uzophumelela ukuletha ukuthula uma-nje esebenzisa ingcindezelo. Waqhubeka wabeka izimangalo ezintathu ngoPawulu: (1) ukuthi uPawulu ungumphehli wodweshu oselokhu efaka umoya wodlame kumaJuda embusweni wonke (IZenzo 24:5); (2) ungumholi wamaNazari (IZenzo 24:5), okusho ukuthi onke amaKrestu angaphansi kombuthano wenxushunxushu; (3) ukuthi uke wazama ukungcolisa ithempeli eJerusalema (IZenzo 24:6).

Funda iZenzo 24:10-19. UPawulu waziphendula wathini lezimangalo ngasinye ngasinye na?

Amanye amaphuzu aphakanyiswa uPawulu alulaza izimangalo: (1) ukungabi khona kofakazi base Asiya (IZenzo 24:18, 19), okwakungenza icala lingabi semthethweni, (2) ukuthi into amaJuda lapho ayekhuluma ngayo icala likaPawulu phambi kweSanhedrin okwakwenzeke esontweni elilodwa ngaphambili (IZenzo 24:20), kwakusho ukuthi kwakungekho simangalo ayengambeka sona ngaphandle kokuthi wayekholwa ukuthi lukhona uvuko lwabafileyo (qhathanisa neZenzo 23:6).

Impendulo kaFeliksi (IZenzo 24:24-27) yatshengisa okukhulu ngesimilo sakhe: wahlehlisela kude isinqumo, wayengathengeka, futhi wayengusomathuba. UPawulu wayengenalo ithuba lokwahlulelwa ngobulungiswa phambi komuntu ofana noFeliksi.

Funda iZenzo 24:16. UPawulu wathi uzamela ukuba "nonembeza ongenacala phambi kukaNkulunkulu nakubantu." Kusho ukuthini lokho? Yini, uma kukhona, odinga ukukushintsha ukuze nawe ukwazi ukusho kanjalo?

Phambi kukaFestu

Ngemuva kweminyaka emibili uFeliksi egcine uPawulu ejele, enzela ukuthokozisa amaJuda, wakhiswa esikhundleni, kwangena uPorkiyu Festu njengombusi waseJudiya (IZenzo 24:27). UFestu waphatha kusukela ngo A.D. 60 kuya ku 62.

Funda iZenzo 25:1-5. Lokho kusisiza kanjani ukwembula inzondo ebangelwa ukushumayela iqiniso kulabo abangafuni ukulikholwa na?

Mhlawumbe ngenxa yokuthi baseke behluleka kanye ukubonisa uFeliksi ngalokho abamangalela ngakho uPawulu, abaholi babengasafuni ukugembula manje. Ohambweni okubonakala ukuthi kwaku olokuqala lukaFestu lokuya eJerusalema, bacela kuye ukuba kushintshwe inkantolo, uPawulu anikelwe kubona ukuze ahlulelwe yiSanhedrin ngokomthetho wamaJuda. Kodwa, leso sicelo sasifihla okwakuyiyona njongo yabo yangempela: ukubulala uPawulu. Nakuba uFestu wayezimisela ukulivula futhi udaba, wathi icala liyothethwa eKesariya, hhayi eJerusalema, okusho ukuthi uPawulu wayezokwahlulelwa ngokomthetho wamaRoma. Masinyane-nje esebuyele eKesariya, uFestu wahlanganisa isigcawu, abamangaleli baka Pawulu baqala bambeka izinsolo, kodwa ngokwempendulo kaPawulu (IZenzo 25:8) siyabona ukuthi zazifana nalezo ayesolwa eminyakeni emibili eyedlule, kodwa manje sekuqhakambiswa nokuthi uyisishoshovu sokuvukela umbuso, nokuthi uyingosi embusweni.

Funda iZenzo 25:9-12. Ngokubona lokho, uFestu wahlosa ukusebenzisa uPawulu ukuze azihlomulele kwezepolitiki. Wakuthatha kanjani uPawulu lokho?

Ekugcineni, uFestu wabonakala ukuthi akehlukile kuFeliksi maqondana namacebo akhe ezombusazwe (IZenzo 24:27). Ngoba engafuni ukulahlekelwa ukwesekelwa kwamaJuda esanda kungena-nje esikhundleni ngokuthi amemezele ubumsulwa bukaPawulu, wazindla ngokuvuma isicelo samaJuda sokuthi uPawulu akahlulelwe yiSanhedrin eJerusalema.

Kodwa lokho, akwamukelekanga kuPawulu owayazi ukuthi ngeke athole ubulungiswa lapho uma kwenziwa intando yezitha zakhe. Kanjalo-ke, esebenzisa amalungelo akhe obuRoma, wathi ufuna indaba yakhe ixoxwe yinkantolo yaseRoma, futhi ebona ukuthi ayikho enye indlela angaphuma ngayo kulesimo esimanzonzo, walidlulisela enkantolo enkulu kunazo zonke embusweni waseRoma, kuKesari uqobo.

Phambi kukaKesari

UFestu wasivuma isicelo sikaPawulu sokuthi ayokwahlulelwa eRoma (IZenzo 25:12). Kusenjalo, umbusi wasebenzisa ukuvakasha kukaHerodi Agripha wesibili ukumbuza mayelana nodaba lukaPawulu, kakhulukazi ngokuqondene nokuthi athumele umbiko othini kuKesari. UFestu wayengakazazi kahle izindaba zamaJuda, kanti uAgripha wayengaba lusizo impela (IZenzo 26:2, 3).

Funda iZenzo 25:13-22. UFestu wamtshelani uAgripha ngoPawulu, inkosi yaphendula kanjani?

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UAgripha wesibili, owokugcina emakhosini angoHerodi, weza eKesariya nodadewabo uBerenisi ukuzobingelela umbusi omusha. Uma uFestu echaza udaba lukaPawulu wamangaliswa ukuthi kuzo zonke izinsolo, akukho lutho oluhlangene namacala amakhulu—awombusazwe noma awobugebengu. Kunalokho, ayephathelene nenkolo yobuJuda, kakhulukazi othile okuthiwa uJesu, "owayefile, kodwa uPawulu athi uyaphila" (IZenzo 25:19, RSV). UPawulu wayeseshilo phambi kweSanhedrin ukuthi umangalelwe ngenxa yokukholwa kwakhe ekuvukeni kukaJesu, kanti manje uFestu wakwenza kwacaca ukuthi yilona daba ngempela lolo.

Funda iZenzo 25:23-27. ULuka uyichaza kanjani indlela uPawulu angena ngayo phambi kuka Agripha na?

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"Manje-ke uPawulu, esaboshwe ngamaketanga, wema phambi kwababebuthene. Yeka leso simo esingefani! UAgripha noBerenisi babenegunya nesikhundla, kwathi-ke ngenxa yolokho, izwe labathanda. Kodwa babesilele ngezimpawu zesimilo ezithandeka kuNkulunkulu. Babengabaphuli bomthetho waKhe, bekhohlakele ezinhliziyweni nasemilweni. Izenzo zabo zazinengeka phambi kwezulu."—Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles* p. 434.

Lendaba ifanele isifundiseni ngokubukeka kwangaphandle, okungathandeka ebantwini, kodwa kube kufihla okuyikona okwangempela? Kanjani-ke ngathi? Ukubukeka kwethu kwehluke kangakanani kulokho esiyikhona ngempela?

Ukuziphendulela KukaPawulu

Njengoba zonke izinto zase zihlelekile, izikhulu zasebukhosini zihlezi eduze kombusi, isiboshwa sangeniswa ukuze sizikhulumele, okuyinto eyayenzelwa uAgripha, njengoba uFestu wayesezizwele ngaphambili (IZenzo 25:8-11).

Funda iZenzo 26:1-23. Wayenzani uPawulu ngalenkulumo yakhe phambi kuka Agripha na?

Inkulumo kaPawulu empeleni kwakuwumlando wempilo yakhe engakaphenduki, nangemuva kokuphenduka kwakhe. Okuqukethwe yiyo, kufana naleyo ekuZenzo 22:1-21, ayenza phambi kwesixuku eJerusalema. Umphostoli waqala ngokuzama ukuthola umusa kaAgripha. Wabonga ithuba lokuvunyelwa ukubeka udaba lwakhe phambi komuntu omkhulu kangaka, kakhulukazi ngoba uAgripha wayeyazi inkolo yamaJuda. Ngaleso sizathu, uAgripha wayengaba usizo olukhulu kumbusi waseRoma ukuze aqonde ukuthi izinsolo abekwa zona azilona iqiniso.

Lenkulumo ingahlukaniswa izigaba ezintathu. Kwesokuqala (IZenzo 26:4-11), uPawulu uchaza ukulunga kwakhe kobuFarisi, okwakwaziwa kakhulu eJerusalema. njengomFarisi, wayekholwa ovukweni lwabafileyo, okwakudingeka ekugcwalisekeni kwethemba lawokhokho bakaIsrayeli. AmaJuda ngaleyondlela, ayeziphikisa uma elwisana nemfundiso yakhe, ngoba akukho lutho kuyona olwalungahambisani nobuJuda. Kodwa wayewazi kahle umqondo wabo, ngoba naye uqobo wayeke wakuthola kungamukeleki ukuthi uNkulunkulu wayengavusa uJesu, kangangoba yena Pawulu waze washushisa labo abakholwa lokho.

Esigabeni sesibili (IZenzo 26:12-18), uPawulu wabika ngendlela umqondo wakhe waguquka ngayo selokhu ahlangana noJesu endleleni eya eDamaseku, nobizo aluthola lokuhambisa isigijimi ezizweni. Ekugcineni uPawulu uthi umthelela walokho ayekubonile (IZenzo 26:19-23) wamenza akaze acabanga ukwenza ngokunye ngaphandle ukulalela, nokwenza umsebenzi wovangelo, okuyisona sizathu amangalelwe sona. Okuyilona daba lokuboshwa kwakhe-ke, akusikona ukuthi wephula umthetho wobuJuda noma ukungcolisa ithempeli. Kunalokho, kwakungenxa yesigijimi sakhe ngokufa nokuvuka kukaJesu, okwakuhambisana ngokuphelele neMibhalo, futhi kuvumela abezizwe abakholwayo ukuba babe nesabelo esigcwele osindisweni.

Funda iZenzo 26:18. Ngokwaleyo ndimana, kwenzekani kulabo abanokusindiswa kuKrestu na? Wena ukuzwe kanjani lokho kweyakho impilo?

UPawulu Phambi Kwabaholi

Nakuba uPawulu wayekhuluma ebhekise kuAgripha, uFestu uyena owaphendula kuqala, njengoba sibona kuZenzo 26:24. UFestu wayengeke abe nenkinga ukuba uPawulu wayekhulume ngokuthi umphefumulo awufi, kodwa ngisho namaGriki asendulo namaRoma ayazi ukuthi lemiqondo emibili—ukungafi novuko—ayihambisani. Ngakhoke, bamukela owokuqala, balahla owesibili. Kungakho-nje uPawulu kwenye indawo ethi ivangeli liwubuwula kwabezizwe (1 Kor. 1:23). Ngendlela yokuhlonipha, uPawulu wakhuluma evuna ukuba nomqondo kwalokho akushoyo, wase ephendukela kuAgripha, umJuda owangeke agcine ngokumuzwa kahle, kodwa futhi abenokuqinisa ukuthi lokho okushiwoyo kuvumelana nabaprofethi bamaHeberu (IZenzo 26:25, 26).

Funda iZenzo 26:27, 28. Waphendula wathini uAgripha embuzweni oshubile kaPawulu na?

Umbuzo kaPawulu wabeka uAgripha phansi kwesimo esilukhuni. NjengomJuda, wayengeke aphike ukuthi uyayikholwa iMibhalo; ngakolunye uhlangothi, uma evuma, yayingeke ibe khona enye into ngaphandle kokuthi amukele uJesu njengoMesiya. Impendulo yakhe kwaku eyokuphunyuka ngobuqili ogibeni ayekulona: "masinyane kangaka sewuzama ukungenza umKrestu" (IZenzo 26:28, NRSV); qhathanisa ne ESV, neNIV)—lokhu kuyisihumusho esingcono sesiGriki kunalokhu okwejwayelekile okuthi: "Ucisho wangenza ngaba umKrestu" (NKJV). Okulandelayo okwashiwo nguPawulu kutshengisa ukukhula ekuzinikeleni evangelini: "Noma ngokushesha noma cha, ngithandaza kuNkulunkulu ukuthi kungabi uwena kuphela, kodwa nabo bonke abangizwayo manje, sengathi bangaba njengami, ngaphandle kwalamaketanga" (IZenzo 26:29, NRSV). Emazwini akhe okugcina kuleso sigcawu, umphostoli akazange azicelele ukukhululwa, njengoba labo ababemlalele babekhululekile. Kunalokho, wafisa sengathi bangafana naye, ngaphandle kwamaketanga asezingalweni zakhe. Intshisekelo kaPawulu ngevangeli yayedlula kakhulu ukucabangela ukuphepha kwakhe.

Funda iZenzo 26:30-32. UAgripha wakutshengisa kanjani ukukholwa kwakhe ukuthi uPawulu umsulwa na?

UFestu wayedinga usizo luka Agripha kuphela-nje ukuze agcwalise umbiko (IZenzo 26:25-27). Ukudlulisela phambili icala kukaPawulu kwase kwamukelwe ngokusemthethweni (IZenzo 25:12). Isiboshwa sasingasekho phansi kokwahlulelwa uFestu.

Funda iZenzo 26:24-28. UPawulu wagcina elibekephi ithemba lakhe, futhi lokho kumelwe kusitsheleni ngokuthi ezindabeni zenkolo ithemba lethu limelwe libekuphi na?

Ukujula Nomcabango:

"Ngabe ingqondo ka Agripha uma ezwa lamazwi ngalesikhathi yabuyela emuva yini emlandweni owedlule womndeni wakubo, nemizamo yabo eyize yokulwisana naLowo amshumayelayo uPawulu? Ngabe wacabanga yini ngokhokho wakhe uHerodi, nokubulawa kwezingane ezingenacala eBethlehema? Wayecabanga yini ngomunye wozalo lwakubo, uAntipas owabulala uJohane uMbhabhadisi? Wacabanga yini ngoyise uAgripha wokuqala, owabulala umphostoli uJakobe? Wabubona yini ezinhlekeleleni ezavelela lamakhosi, ubufakazi bentukuthelo kaNkulunkulu ewumphumela wezenzo zawo zesihluku ezincekwini zaKhe? Ukuzigabisa nokubukisa kwangaleliya langa kwamkhumbuza yini uAgripha ngesikhathi lapho uyise, inkosi eyayinamandla angaphezu kwawakhe, wayemi kulo lelo dolobha, egqoke ubukhazikhazi, ngesikhathi abantu bemhalalisela bethi ungunkulunkulu? Wayesekhohliwe yini ukuthi kungakapheli nokuhalalalisa kwabantu impindiselo kaNkulunkulu yamfikela ngokushesha? Kukhona okuthile kwakho konke lokhu okwathi halamuzi engqondweni kaAgripha; kodwa wakhukhumaliswa ubukhazikhazi obabuphambi kwakhe, ukuziphakamisa nokuzibona ebalulekile kwaxosha yonke imicabango yokulunga kuyena."—Ellen G. White Comments, *The SDA Bible Commentary,* vol. 6, pp. 1066, 1067.

Imibuzo Yokuxoxisana:

1. Eklasini, xoxani ngesinqumo sikaPawulu sokudlulisela icala kuKesari. Kwakuyisinqumo esihle yini leso (qhathanisa neZenzo 25:25; 26:31, 32)? Singahamba indima engakanani ekwenzeni izinqumo ezibalulekile ukuzivikela thina esikhundleni sokwethembela ngokuphelele ekunakeni kukaNkulunkulu na?

2. Zindla ngamazwi kaPawulu kuAgripha, athi: "Ngalokho, nkosi Agripha, angibanga ngongawulaleliyo umbono wasezulwini" (IZenzo 26:13). Kusitshelani ngoPawulu? Sethembeke kangakanani obizweni lwethu lwevangeli njengamaKrestu (1 Petru 2:9, 10)?

3. UPawulu wayebathanda abantu—hhayi-nje ubuningi babo, kodwa abantu uqobo. Esigcawini sakhe sokugcina eKesariya, watshela abalaleli ukuthi isifiso senhliziyo yakhe ukuthi bonke bafane naye: okusho ukusindiswa ngomusa kaNkulunkulu (IZenzo 26:29). Wayenganakile ukukhululwa kwakhe noma ubulungiswa ngaphezu kokubafisela ukusindiswa. Singafundani kulesibonelo sakhe? Kungakanani esizimisele ukukudela ukuze kwande ivangeli?

4. U Agripha wayenethuba lokuzwa ivangeli liphuma emlonyeni kaPawulu. Kodwa walenqaba. Singaqaphela kanjani ukuze singaphuthelwa amathuba amakhulu avelayo phambi kwethu na? Singahlala kanjani siphapheme ngokwasemphefumulweni ukuze sibone izimo ezisizungezile njengoba zinjalo na?