"Have you lost your mind?!" I was going to see Caesar, I was going to stand trial before the Emperor in Rome where Jesus had told me I needed to be his witness. But Governor Festus wasn't going to send me right away. He was frustrated and angry at me. I had foiled his plot to hand me over to the Jews as a way to gain their political favor and now he was **forced** to send me to the Emperor, his boss and lord. And he had no good reason why this was happening. He was sending me, a Roman citizen being held prisoner for no legitimate reason according to Roman law. The Roman Emperor was going to have to waste his precious time hearing my case. Festus would be wasting the Emperor's time—it was political suicide. At worst Governor Festus would be removed from office for incompetence, at best he would never be promoted again.

So Governor Festus called me in again. He wanted to investigate my case further and see if he could find any possible reason why I should be held prisoner. But he wanted help. So he called for Marcus Agrippa, the great grandson of Herod the Great who had tried to kill Jesus and John the Baptist when they were children. Marcus Agrippa was deeply familiar with the customs and practices of the Jewish people, yet fiercely loyal to Rome, so he was often used by Roman leaders for insight and advice on how to handle things with the Jews. Marcus Agrippa's sister was Drusilla who was the wife of the previous Governor Felix. When I met with Marcus Agrippa he showed up with his other sister Bernice—rumors of their inappropriate relationship had spread far and wide.

When Marcus Agrippa gave me permission to speak I started by telling him who I was. That I was a Pharisee, fiercely loyal to the Creator of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the twelve tribes of Israel. I told him I was on trial for my **hope** in the resurrection of the dead. I told him I had once hated the followers of the Way, the followers of Jesus and thought they were enemies of Israel, enemies of the Jews. But Jesus, raised from the dead, had encountered me on the road to Damascus, on the road to hurt, imprison, and kill more Christians. Jesus took hold of my life and said he was sending me to *"open the eyes"* of the people so they might *"turn from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to the Creator"* and receive forgiveness and liberation from all their selfishness. I obeyed Jesus and began to call all people to repent and produce fruit worthy of repentance—calling all people to follow Christ Jesus who revealed that the path of the Creator is one of suffering, death, and resurrection.

Marcus Agrippa then shouted, *"Have you lost your mind?! The Scriptures have driven you insane!"* I told him that I had actually found my mind, I had found the truth, I had found true sanity in Jesus. I told him that the truth was there for anyone to see. Then I asked him if he trusted in the words of the prophets. He then said, *"Are you trying to make me a Christian?!"* I said, *"I pray that all would become like me, except for these chains!"* Then they ended the hearing, realizing that I had done nothing worthy of death according to Roman law. But because I had appealed to the Emperor, I must be sent to Rome.

The Lord Jesus had **opened** my eyes. He had turned me from **darkness** to **light**. I had been so lost in sin, in my **selfishness** that I was not able to truly see or think straight. All I could see and think about was **myself**—my mind was completely controlled by my ego. But then the Lord turned me away from myself and toward him, the light. And then I was able to see and think straight for the first time. I realized that I had been a servant of Satan—as I had served myself and **my** dreams, plans, and desires I had been serving **Satan**. Satan used the desires of **my** flesh, the desires of **my** heart to confuse me, blind me, control me, and have power over me. He had used my **anger** to turn me violent. He had used my **sadness** and loneliness to turn me self-indulgent. He had used my **pride** to turn me arrogant. He had used my **fear** to control my every decision. But then Jesus saved me and sent me to share the good news with others that there was a way so much better than selfishness. A way that frees us from Satan's power. In Christ our arrogance can be turned into humble faith, our fear can be turned into hope, and our violence can be turned into love. I had indeed *"lost my mind,"* lost my **old** mind that was controlled by my ego and Satan and found a **new** mind that followed Jesus and was filled with his peace and love.

"Have you lost your mind?" The world—Civilization—**thinks** it is sane, reasonable, wise, and intelligent. But when the Creator confronts us and opens our eyes through his Word, we come to see that it is quite the opposite. The world of Civilization is in fact insane, foolish, crazy, and stupid. The world's "sanity" is destroying us and all creation. So we must turn away from what Civilization believes to be wise, smart, functional, and normal to find the true wisdom of the Creator.

We need to go **crazy** if we are going to find true sanity. We need to **lose our minds** in Civilization so we might find the mind of Christ. Our **instincts** need to be completely reshaped. How we **think** needs to be overhauled and changed. Civilization has trained us to be arrogant, to think we have all the answers. Civilization has trained us to live in fear, to be scared of everything and everyone. Civilization has trained us to be violent, to fight back against others and greedily grab whatever we want for ourselves. Our minds need to **change**. We think we are living in the light when we are in Civilization, but it is total **darkness**. Only Christ can "turn the lights on" and show us what is really true and good. We must turn from the darkness of arrogance, fear, and violence to live in the light of faith, hope, and love.

"Have you lost your mind?" Have you let the Scriptures drive you **crazy**, make you **insane** from the world's perspective? The humility of faith, in a world that thinks it knows it all, is crazy. The peacefulness of hope, in a world that is scared of everything, is crazy. The kindness and generosity of love, in a world of violence and greed, is crazy. **Be crazy**. Lose your mind. Do not think or act like the world, like Civilization. Embrace the craziness of Christ. While the world thinks it has all the answers—be humble. While the world is scared of everything—be hopeful. While the world is violent and greedy—be loving. *"Have you lost your mind?"* I hope so. May we all lose our minds everyday so we might find the mind of Christ, the mind filled with the craziness of faith, hope, and love. **Amen.**