

Acts 25: PAUL APPEALED TO CEASER

Introduction

Acts 25 continues to detail Paul's "merry-go-round" within the Roman judicial system, similar to what we have today. Remember, at the end of Acts 24, we learned that Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus, who had left Paul in prison because he wanted to grant a favor to the Jews. Porcius Festus becomes the new governor and must deal with the case of Paul, who has been in prison for two years without charges.

The Jewish leaders asked the new Festus to bring Paul to Jerusalem for trial as a ploy to ambush and kill him along the way. Festus refuses and instead asks them to come down to Caesarea. Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, was leaning toward sending Paul to Jerusalem. When Paul realized this, he appealed to Caesar (meaning the higher court in Rome)

However, Festus struggles with sending Paul to Rome, not knowing what to write down as the accusation against him. He felt it unreasonable to send a prisoner to Rome without specifying the charges against him. Thankfully, King Agrippa, who governed most of Judea by the time of Paul's trial, and his wife Bernice arrived at Caesarea to pay their respects to him. Festus shared the case with him and sought their advice on how to handle Paul's case. King Agrippa, however, requested to hear from Paul himself.

Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Acts 25:1-27

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

Think Through the Following Questions

1. How does this chapter reflect the tension between politics and justice?
2. How does Paul's appeal to Caesar highlight the significance of knowing and standing up for one's rights?
3. In what ways does Paul's trial before Festus mirror the trials and tribulations that believers may face today?
4. How does Paul's journey through the judicial system model endurance and patience in the face of adversity?
5. How does the complexity of Paul's trial before Festus and Agrippa reflect the difficulties Christians may face in explaining their faith in high places of the world today?
6. How does Paul's handling of his trials reflect on the call for Christians to be 'in' the world, but not 'of' the world?
7. How can we see God's sovereignty in the way Paul's case is escalated to higher Roman authorities?
8. How can we use our own positions, wherever they may be, to spread the Gospel as Paul did in his trial?

Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?

Application: How do you think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?