



Lesson 37 – Paul Appeals to Caesar

Based on Acts 25:1-12

Paul had been arrested in Jerusalem, then carried to Caesarea for trial. He was brought before Felix, but when Paul started witnessing his faith to Felix and Felix began for the first time to look at his own record of sins, pushed off the judgment for a later time. Paul had given Felix his last appeal from God. Felix would be removed from power, and a new regent would take his place.

- 1) At this time, how long had Paul been incarcerated?

Acts 24:27 But after _____ Porcius Festus came into Felix' room: and Felix, willing to shew the Jews a pleasure, left Paul bound.

- 2) How did Festus first hear of the prisoner in Caesarea?

Acts 25:1 Now when Festus was come into the province, after three days he ascended from Caesarea to _____.

Acts 25:2-3 Then the high priest and the chief of the Jews _____ him against Paul, and besought him, And desired favour against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, laying wait in the way to _____ him.

In making this request they purposed to waylay Paul along the road to Jerusalem and murder him. But Festus had a high sense of the responsibility of his position and courteously declined to send for Paul.

- 3) What did he tell them?

Acts 25:4 But Festus answered, that Paul should be kept at _____, and that he himself would depart shortly thither.

Acts 25:16 To whom I answered, It is not the manner of the Romans to deliver any man to _____, before that he which is accused have the accusers _____ to _____, and have licence to answer for himself concerning the crime laid against him.

Acts 25:5 Let them therefore, said he, which among you are able, go down with me, and accuse this man, if there be any _____ in him.

This was not what the Jews wanted. They had not forgotten their former defeat at Caesarea. In contrast with the calm bearing and forcible arguments of the apostle, their own malignant spirit and baseless accusations would appear in the worst possible light. Again, they urged that Paul be brought to Jerusalem for trial, but Festus held firmly to his purpose of giving Paul a fair trial at Caesarea. God in His providence controlled the decision of Festus, that the life of the apostle might be lengthened.

- 4) How did Paul's hearing before Festus begin?

Acts 25:6-7 And when he had tarried among them more than _____ days, he went down unto Caesarea; and the next day sitting on the judgment seat commanded Paul to be brought. And when he was come, the Jews which came down from Jerusalem stood round about, and laid many and _____ complaints against Paul, which they could not prove.



5) How did Paul rebut their accusations?

Acts 25:8 While he answered for himself, Neither against the _____ of the Jews, neither against the temple, nor yet against _____, have I offended any thing at all.

Being on this occasion without a lawyer, the Jews preferred their charges themselves. As the trial proceeded, the accused (Paul) with calmness and candor clearly showed the falsity of their statements.

Festus discerned that the question in dispute related wholly to Jewish doctrines, and that, rightly understood, there was nothing in the charges against Paul, could they be proved, that would render him subject to sentence of death, or even to imprisonment. Yet he saw clearly the storm of rage that would be created if Paul were not condemned or delivered into their hands.

6) Was Porcius Festus a good guy?

Acts 25:9 But Festus, willing to do the Jews a _____, answered Paul, and said, Wilt thou go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged of these things before me?

The apostle knew that he could not look for justice from the people who by their crimes were bringing down upon themselves the wrath of God. He knew that, like the prophet Elijah, he would be safer among the heathen than with those who had rejected light from heaven and hardened their hearts against the gospel. Weary of strife, his active spirit could ill endure the repeated delays and wearing suspense of his trial and imprisonment. He therefore decided to exercise his privilege, as a Roman citizen.

7) What right did he exercise?

Acts 25:10-11 Then said Paul, I stand at _____ judgment seat, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews have I done no wrong, as thou very well knowest. For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I _____ unto Caesar.

Festus knew nothing of the conspiracies of the Jews to murder Paul, and he was surprised at this appeal to Caesar. However, the words of the apostle put a stop to the proceedings of the court.

8) How did Festus reply?

Acts 25:12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto _____? unto Caesar shalt thou go.

Thus, it was that once more, because of hatred born of bigotry and self-righteousness, a servant of God was driven to turn for protection to the heathen. It was this same hatred that forced the prophet Elijah to flee for succor to the widow of Sarepta; and that forced the heralds of the gospel to turn from the Jews to proclaim their message to the Gentiles. And this hatred the people of God living in this age have yet to meet.



Among many of the professing followers of Christ there is the same pride, formalism, and selfishness, the same spirit of oppression, that held so large a place in the Jewish heart. In the future, men claiming to be Christ's representatives will take a course similar to that followed by the priests and rulers in their treatment of Christ and the apostles. In the great crisis through which they are soon to pass, the faithful servants of God will encounter the same hardness of heart, the same cruel determination, the same unyielding hatred.

9) What Words of Christ must we never forget?

Matthew 26:41 _____ and _____, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

Can you see Paul was well taken care of?

Would you like to have the faith to stand the test?

When is the time to watch and pray?



"He who overcomes, I will give to him to sit down with me on my throne, as I also overcame, and sat down with my Father on his throne."

Revelation 3:21