



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Wednesdays
7.30-8.30PM

ACTS 25

Paul's Defence #4 (Festus)

Jews request to Festus (1-6): Who is Festus? How old is Paul's case now? What did High Priest and chief of Jews request Festus? What was their hidden motive? How did Festus respond?

Festus on judgement seat & Paul on trial (7-12): What did the Jews accuse Paul of? What evidence did they present? What was Paul's response to accusations? Why did Festus want to try Paul in Jerusalem and what was Paul's response? Why did Paul want to appeal to Roman Emperor Caesar? Was the request granted? What dilemma does it create for Festus? How is going to Caesar support Paul's plans?

King Agrippa visit with Festus (13-22): Who is King Agrippa? How did Festus summarize the case and what was his opinion of Paul? What did he know about Paul's faith? How did Agrippa respond? What was Festus expecting from Agrippa?

Personal Reflection: *Festus, a gentile, knew of Paul's belief in resurrection ... what do our unbeliever friends know about our faith?*

Paul's Three Missionary Journeys followed by Five Trials and Defense

Before Jewish Crowd (Acts 21, Acts 22)

✓

Before Jewish Council in Jerusalem (Acts 23) ✓

Before Felix in Caesarea (Acts 24) ✓

Before Festus in Caesarea (Acts 25)

Before King Agrippa of Caesarea (Acts 26)

Mob

Teaches against People, Law & Synagogue,
Brings Gentile to Inner Court

Not Guilty

Sanhedrin

Believes and Preaches of Hope and Resurrection

Not Guilty

Felix

Pestilence, Sediton, Ring Leader, Profanes the temple

Not Guilty

Paul's search for justice continues ...

- **Porcius Festus:** Governor who replaced Felix in A.D. 60
- **King Agrippa:** Jewish Leader who had the right to appoint the Jewish High Priest
- **Caesar:** Roman emperor

Jews request to Festus (1-6)

✓

Who is Festus? How old is Paul's case now?
What did High Priest and chief of Jews request Festus?
What was their hidden motive? How did Festus respond?

Jews request to Festus

- How old is Paul's case now?
 - 2+ years
 - Jews unwilling to forget/forgive Paul or their intent to pursue & harm him
- What did High Priest and chief of Jews request Festus?
 - Have Paul sent back to Jerusalem for trial
 - Hidden motive: to kill him while he is traveling back
- What was Festus response?

Jews request to Festus

What was Festus response?

Rejects their request

Invites them to come to Caesarea

Festus on judgement seat and Paul on trial(7-12)

What did the Jews accuse Paul of? What evidence did they present? (24:5,11)
What was Paul's response to accusations? Why did Festus want to try Paul in Jerusalem and what was Paul's response? Why did Paul want to appeal to Roman Emperor Caesar? Was the request granted? What dilemma does it create for Festus? How is going to Caesar support Paul's plans?

The charges against Paul

What did the Jews accuse Paul of? What evidence did they present? (24:5,11)

- ‘Many and grievous complaints’ but none explicitly stated (7)
- Perhaps charges similar to 24:5 (pestilent fellow, causes sedition, ring leader, profaned the temple) or 21:28 (Paul teaches against people, law, and the synagogue) or 23:6 (of hope and resurrection of the dead)
- No evidence presented (as before, 24:11)

Paul's defense

What was Paul's response to accusations?

NOT GUILTY

I have not offended the law, the temple or Caesar (8)

Festus does not give a judgment decision

Paul on the law, authorities, Jews

- **Law** ... "Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law" (Paul, [Romans 3:31](#)) "Do not think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill ([Jesus, Mathew 5:17](#)) "am dead to the law, that I might live unto God" (Paul, [Galatians 2:19](#)) "man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ (Paul, [Galatians 2:16](#))

Paul on the law, authorities, Jews

- **Authorities** ... “Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of people” (Paul, [Acts 23:5](#)) “Let every soul be subject unto the higher power. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God” (Paul, [Romans 13:1](#)) Pray for Kings and those in authority (Paul, [1 Timothy 2:1-2](#))
- **Jews** ... Privileges of Israelites (Paul, [Romans 9:4-5](#))

Trial option in Jerusalem

Why did Festus want to try Paul in Jerusalem? (9)

To please Jews

Maybe to get some extra time to decide

Paul's response (10, 11)

(a) As a Roman citizen want to be tried by Romans;

(b) I have done nothing wrong against Jews (repeats) ... willing to die if I am guilty

(b) I am going to appeal to Emperor Caesar

Paul's appeal to Caesar

- Why did Paul want to appeal to Roman Emperor Caesar?
 - Final hope for Justice
 - Exercises his right as Roman citizen
- Was the request granted? What dilemma does it create for Festus?
 - Yes
 - Cannot give a ruling, + Festus has no case to forward to Caesar! (26,27)
- How is going to Caesar support Paul's plans?
 - Paul desired to go to Rome (Acts 19:21); also fulfills vision from Acts 23:11

Lord opened an unexpected door for Paul to enter Rome

Do we doubt God to open a door for us and fulfill our heart's desires?

“Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart”

(Psalms 37:4, NIV)

Paul appeared before
judgement seat of Festus ...
we all have to appear before
the Judgment seat

Two important Judgements
The Judge

The Judgment seat

- **Judgment Seat of Christ (for Believers)**
 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. (II Corinthians 5:10, NIV)
 - Judgement at the return of Christ (Matthew 16:27, Revelation 22:12)
 - Believers not condemned, but rewarded
- **Great white throne Judgement (for sinners)**
 - Revelation 20:11-15
 - Believers are resurrected 1,000 years before (Revelation 20:4-6)
- ✓ **Jesus Christ is the judge (John 5:22,27; Acts 10:42, Romans 2:16)**

King Agrippa visit with Festus (13-22)

Who is King Agrippa? How did Festus summarize the case and what was his opinion of Paul? What did he know about Paul's faith? How did Agrippa respond? What was Festus expecting from Agrippa?

King Agrippa

Who is King Agrippa?

- Son of Herod the King who martyred James and imprisoned Peter (Acts 12)
- Great grandson of Herod the great who ruled during Jesus birth.

Festus debrief to Agrippa

How did Festus summarize the case, and what was his opinion of Paul?

- Pending case from Felix (14)
- Jews wanted him to be tried in Jerusalem and he rejected it (15,16)
- Case presented in Caesarea and he presided over it (17-19)
- Paul invited to Jerusalem, but declined(20)
- Paul appealed to Caesar (21)
- Was not convinced of the guilt of Paul (19, 20, 25)

Festus debrief to Agrippa

- **What did he know about Paul's faith? What does it say about Festus Faith?**
 - Festus: Paul believed in 'some Jesus' who rose again (19); reveals Festus did not have a true understanding of Lord Jesus Christ.
- **How did Agrippa respond?**
 - He wanted to hear from Paul (22)
- **What was Festus expecting from Agrippa's hearing of Paul?**
 - Maybe a second opinion
 - Maybe to prepare his case documentation for Caesar (26)

Personal Reflection

*Festus, a gentile, knew of Paul's belief in resurrection ...
what do our unbeliever friends know about our faith?*