

## Yet Untried by Caesar

### Acts 25

- 24 ends with the 'X-cuses of Felix' as he delays obedience to the Gospel. Paul is imprisoned and Festus takes Felix's place.
- 25 parallels previous chapters and can feel like watching a rerun on TV.

#### **1. Appeals to Caesar – Acts 25:1-12**

- 1: Festus: not much known. Josephus: wise, fair, agreeable.
- 2: met by Sanhedrin; Ishmael now President
- 3: favor = concession/ *quid pro quo*/ something for something; same plan.
- 4,5: Festus probably didn't know of the Jew's plot but he can see a power play
- 6: cleared his calendar – "the next day"
- 7: No orator this time; proper procedure was to remain seated
- 8: accused Paul of sin [breaking Law of the Jews], sacrilege [defiling the temple], & sedition [stirring up trouble for Rome]. *Caesar*
- 9: 1] religious, not political issue; 2] Paul not a criminal; not given a choice to go to Jer.
- 10,11: reminder of 1 Cor. 10:13; right to appeal
- 12: not Sanhedrin but his own advisors
- 28:19 – Paul says he was forced to appeal
- By appealing, Paul gets to preach to Agrippa [26:1], remains under Roman protection [v21], extend Gospel's influence to Caesar's palace [Phil. 4:22], preach to Nero's tribunal possibly Nero himself.

#### **2. Perplexed Festus – Acts 25:13-22**

- 13: Agrippa: Herod Agrippa II in history. Father Herod of Ac. 12, killed Jas., attempted to kill Peter. G-grandfather tried to kill baby Jesus. Dad died at age 17, slowly given kingd.
- Julia Bernice: his sister, lived in open incest with brother. Had husband, died, another, died, with Agrippa, married again, died, back to Agrippa. She is 32, he is 31. Scandalous.
- 14: met because of the title of Herod
- 15,16: Roman viewpoint of case
- 17,18: Festus probably expected charges of murder, theft, etc.

- 19: religion, superstition [KJV], trans. Demon worship. Heart of matter: was this Jesus alive or dead?
- 20: conveniently left out pleasing the Jews [v9]
- 21: God's providence a practical result
- 22: Agrippa would've heard who Paul was

### **3. Faces Royalty – Acts 25:23-27**

- 23: Pomp [show, display] where we get fantasy, fantastic. Great contrast dignitaries vs. Paul entering.
- 24: Festus fell into trap of generalizing "all"
- 25: Paul's appeal took the decision out of his hands but he still wanted to appear decisive
- 26: official report was expected to be sent; Festus had no clue.
- 27: truly absurd thing is not releasing Paul as a free man
- Admission of Paul's innocence came too late to save Paul

### **Lessons:**

1. God provides for His children.
2. We should look for ways that we can take our current situation and use it to the benefit of God, like Paul when he went before all these different audiences preaching Christ and Him crucified.
3. Those in authority are put there for a reason, Romans 13:1ff. We should thank God for them and pray for them.

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