

ACTS 25 vs 1

The previous chapter ended with Paul being delivered safely to Felix the governor, and with no resolution, we read: But after two years passed, Felix received a successor Porcius Festus. And Felix, wanting to show favor to the Jews, left Paul in prison

Paul's testimony before Festus,

¹ Now Festus when he arrived in the province, after three days he went up from Caesarea to Jerusalem.

² Then the bossy high priest and leaders of the Jews informed him of their charges against Paul, and urged him to deliver Paul,

³ And desiring favor against him, that he would send for him to Jerusalem, to ambush him on the way and kill him.

⁴ But Festus answered, that Paul would be kept at Caesarea, and that he himself would depart shortly to go there.

⁵ So let those influential men who are among you, go down with me, and accuse this man, if there is any wrongdoing in him.

⁶ And when he had stayed no more than ten days among them, he went down to Caesarea; and the next day seated in court, he instructed Paul to be brought in.

⁷ And when he arrived, the Jews who came down from Jerusalem stood around him, and brought many grievous complaints against Paul, which they were not able to prove.

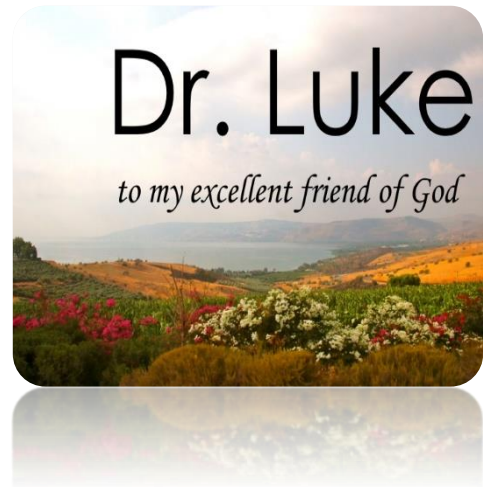
⁸ And Paul answered for himself, I have committed no offence, not against the Jewish law, not against the temple, and not against Caesar.

⁹ But Festus, wanting to do the Jews a favor, answered Paul, and said, Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem, and there be judged before me of these things?

¹⁰ Then Paul said, I am standing at the court of Caesar, where I ought to be judged: to the Jews I have done no wrong, even as you know very well.

¹¹ For if I am an offender, or have done any thing worthy of death, I do not refuse to die: but if none of these things are true, which they accuse me, no one can hand me over to them.

I appeal to Caesar.



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¹² Then after Festus conferred with his council, he answered,

Have you appealed to Caesar? to Caesar you will go.

¹³ And after some time passed, King Agrippa and Bernice arrived in Caesarea to pay a courtesy call to Festus.

¹⁴ And since they had been there many days, Festus presented Paul's case to the king, saying, There is a man who was left in prison by Felix:

¹⁵ about whom, when I was at Jerusalem, the chief priests and leaders of the Jews informed me, desiring he be condemned.

¹⁶ To whom I answered, It is not the custom of the Romans to deliver any man to die, before the accused has confronted the accusers face to face, and has opportunity to give a defense concerning the criminal charges against him.

¹⁷ So when they assembled here, without any delay, the next day I took my seat in court, and instructed the man to be brought in.

¹⁸ And against him, when the accusers stood up, they brought no charges of the sort I was expecting:

¹⁹ but they had some disputes against him about their own superstition, and of one Jesus, who was dead, whom Paul claimed to be alive.

²⁰ And being at a loss how to judge such things, I asked him if he would go to Jerusalem, and there be judged about these matters.

²¹ **But when Paul had appealed to be held for trial by the Emperor,** I instructed him to be kept in custody until I could send him to Caesar.

²² **Then Agrippa said to Festus, I would also like to hear the man myself.**

Tomorrow you will hear him, he replied.

²³ **So the next day, Agrippa and Bernice came with great pomp, and entered the auditorium with the commander and prominent men of the city. And when Festus gave order, Paul was brought in.**



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²⁴ Then Festus said, King Agrippa, and all men present with us, **you see this man**. The whole Jewish community has appealed to me concerning him, both at Jerusalem, and also here, shouting that he should not live any longer.

²⁵ Now when I found he had not done anything deserving of death, but when he himself appealed to the Emperor, I decided to send him.

²⁶ **Yet I have nothing definite to write to my lord about him**. So I have brought him before all of you, and especially before you, King Agrippa, so that after this examination is over, I have something to write.

²⁷ **For it seems unreasonable for me to send a prisoner, and not indicate what are the charges against him.**

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