

Union Bethel AME Church (dial-in and Facebook™ Live)  
Bible Study Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#  
Tuesday, May 5, 2020, 6:30-7:30 PM



### **Acts 24:1-27 to Act 25:1-27**

Paul was delivered to Felix, the Roman Governor. Emperor Claudius appointed Felix to the position after Felix had served as a royal slave. It was not unusual for a slave to be freed but it was highly unusual for a former slave to receive such a high position. Felix was corrupt. He forced Jewish Zealots to murder the high priest Jonathan. Felix was more liberal with Paul and only kept him under very loose house arrest. Felix presided over Paul's trial. When Felix was called to Rome to answer for his corruption, the new Governor, Festus dealt with Paul.

**Acts 24:1-9**

The High Priest Ananias and several other members of the Sanhedrin arrived in Caesarea and accused Paul of stirring up riots and attempting to defile the temple. They start their speech with praise for Felix and ask for his patience with their accusations. They want Felix on their side. While not stated explicitly, the flattery does not work on Felix. He does not hand Paul over to the Sanhedrin.

**Why does hearing someone flatter us make us question motives?**

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**Acts 24:10-21**

Paul gave his defense by stating the facts. He also indicates that the Jews from Asia who accused him of defiling the temple should be present to accuse him now. He basically said that the Sanhedrin were before Felix with hearsay evidence. Paul then went to the heart of the matter. He was on trial because he believed in the resurrection of the dead and the Sadducees did not share in that belief.

**What is powerful about Paul's statements?**

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**Acts 24:22-27**

Governor Felix had accurate knowledge of the Way. He had heard the gospel but he did not believe. Instead he wanted Paul to bribe him to be let out of jail. Even after 2 years Paul did not give Felix what he wanted. Paul offered Christ Jesus in the conversations that he had with Felix and Drusilla during the 2 years of his confinement under Felix.

**What likely kept Felix from accepting Jesus as the Messiah?**

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### **Acts 25:1-12**

Festus arrived in the province as the new Governor. He heard the same accusations but refused to bring Paul to Jerusalem. He required the accusers to go to Caesarea. The Sanhedrin repeated their charges and Festus allowed Paul to offer his defense. Paul proclaimed that he broke no Jewish laws. As a Roman citizen he requested a trial in front of Caesar. Since he had not broken any Jewish law he could not be handed over to the Sanhedrin to be killed.

**Discuss the risks and potential rewards for Paul demanding a trial by Caesar.**

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### **Acts 25:13-21**

Since Festus is the new Governor, the Roman appointed king Agrippa and Bernice arrived to greet him. Festus took this opportunity to get King Agrippa involved in Paul's case. Festus provided details and explained this was more a question of Jewish law and not Roman law.

**Why would Festus present King Agrippa with this introduction of Paul's case?**

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### **Acts 25:22-27**

King Agrippa agreed to hear Paul's defense. Paul was introduced as the one whom "the whole Jewish people" petitioned him. Festus stated that he found nothing against Paul deserving of death. Festus claimed he needed Agrippa to hear what Paul had to say so that Festus could write an accurate summary of the charges against Paul.

**Why would Festus need the support of King Agrippa?**

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