

Paul on Trial: Festus

May 7, 2023

Acts 25:1-22

Intro: Paul before Felix – 2 years of waiting...

Story:

- 1-5 New Administration in town
 - Step #1 – Tour your jurisdiction: Off to Jerusalem
 - Step #2 – Meet the key players: Chief priests & leaders
 - Step #3 – Listen to their issues: Paul the prisoner!
 - Step #4 – Flex your authority: Home court advantage.
- 6-12 Paul on Trial (again – 3rd time!)
 - Court is now in session – Paul brought before them.
 - Jewish leaders brought serious charges against Paul.
 - But offered no proof!
 - Paul’s defense: I have done nothing wrong – Law, Temple, or Caesar.
 - Festus the politician: Would you go to Jerusalem to stand trial?
 - Paul’s stand: Nope.
 - This is the court that has jurisdiction.
 - I would not get a fair trial! (See “Favor”)
 - You know better! (I have done nothing wrong!)
 - I appeal to Caesar!
 - Verdict: To Caesar you will go!
- 13-22 An Interlude: King Agrippa
 - More state diplomats – King Agrippa & Bernice
 - Was given jurisdiction over the Temple. (“King of the Jews”)
 - Festus pleads his case
 - Inherited prisoner – hated by the powerbrokers in Jerusalem.
 - Can’t hand him over without a hearing (slight embellishment!).
 - Case was held... but it was not what I expected – religion.
 - I didn’t know what to do... so I asked Paul to go to Jerusalem.
 - He refused and appealed to Caesar.
 - Agrippa is curious – I would like to hear from him.

Key:

- Paul – Trust God and act boldly!
 - Appealed to Caesar – Nero!

Application:

- Paul - Is God calling you to a bold step of faith?