

Acts 24:1-27 **Felix hears Paul and his accusers state their case**

Case against Paul – Presented by Tertullus

¹ Now after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a certain orator named Tertullus. These gave evidence to the governor against Paul.

² And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation, saying: "Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace, and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight, ³ we accept it always and in all places, most noble Felix, with all thankfulness. ⁴ Nevertheless, not to be tedious to you any further, I beg you to hear, by your courtesy, a few words from us.

⁵ For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes. ⁶ He even tried to profane the temple, and we seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law. ⁷ But the commander Lysias came by and with great violence took him out of our hands, ⁸ commanding his accusers to come to you. By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him." ⁹ And the Jews also assented, maintaining that these things were so.

Paul's defense

¹⁰ Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: "Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself,

¹¹ because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. ¹² And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. ¹³ Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me.

¹⁴ But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets. ¹⁵ I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust. ¹⁶ This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

¹⁷ Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation, ¹⁸ in the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult. ¹⁹ They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me. ²⁰ Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council, ²¹ unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.' "

Decision to be made when Lysias Commander of the Jerusalem Garrison comes

²² But when Felix heard these things, having more accurate knowledge of the Way, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case." ²³ So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him.

Felix hears Paul's ministry message – When I have a Convenient Time

²⁴ And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ. ²⁵ Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-

control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."

Hoping for a Bribe

26 Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him.

Doing the Jews a favor – Festus the new Roman Procurator (Governor) of Judea

27 But after two years Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound. NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Case against Paul – Presented by Tertullus

✚ Now after five days Ananias the high priest came down with the elders and a certain orator named Tertullus. These gave evidence to the governor against Paul. [Acts 24:1]

✚ After a flattering introduction he presented the charges. [Acts 24:2-9]

Paul is accused of being:

- ✧ A plague
- ✧ A creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world.
- ✧ A ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.
- ✧ A profaner of the Temple.

Jewish action taken:

- ✧ We seized him, and wanted to judge him according to our law.

Roman interference:

- ✧ Commander Lysias came by and with great violence took him out of our hands, commanding his accusers to come to you.

Examine him yourself

- ✧ By examining him yourself you may ascertain all these things of which we accuse him.

✚ The Jews agreed, maintaining that the charges were true.

Paul's defense [Acts 24:10-21]

✚ Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered:

"Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself, because you may ascertain:

- ✧ It is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship.
- ✧ They neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city.
- ✧ Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me.
- ✧ But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.
- ✧ I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.
- ✧ This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.
- ✧ Now after many years I came to bring alms and offerings to my nation.
- ✧ In the midst of which some Jews from Asia found me purified in the temple, neither with a mob nor with tumult.
 - ✧ They ought to have been here before you to object if they had anything against me.

- ✧ Or else let those who are here themselves say if they found any wrongdoing in me while I stood before the council,
- ✧ unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, 'Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.'

Decision to be made when Lysias Commander of the Jerusalem Garrison comes

- ✧ But when Felix heard these things, **having more accurate knowledge of the Way**, he adjourned the proceedings and said, "**When Lysias the commander comes down, I will make a decision on your case.**" [Acts 24:22]
 - ✧ So he commanded the centurion to keep Paul and to let him have liberty, and told him not to forbid any of his friends to provide for or visit him. [Acts 24:23]
 - ✧ Paul was kept a prisoner in the Governor's mansion with liberty to move about and have friends minister to his needs.

Felix hears Paul's ministry message – When I have a Convenient Time

- ✧ And after some days, when Felix came with his wife Drusilla, who was Jewish, he sent for Paul and heard him concerning the faith in Christ.

Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; **when I have a convenient time I will call for you.**" [Acts 24:24-25]

- ✧ When Felix decided to hear Paul, he was not interested in the charges against Paul brought by the Jews, but instead, since he knew about the Christian movement called the Way, he asked Paul concerning the faith in Christ.
- ✧ The message call for righteousness, self-control, and accountability to God was more than Felix could handle because it frightened him, so he put off further instruction for a "Convenient Time."
- ✧ Often we endanger our hope of salvation out of fear and seeking our own convenience.

Hoping for a Bribe

- ✧ Meanwhile he also hoped that money would be given him by Paul, that he might release him. Therefore he sent for him more often and conversed with him. [Acts 24:26]
 - ✧ Since He had no legal cause for keeping Paul in detention, Felix proved himself to be an opportunist and was hoping for a bribe for releasing him.
 - ✧ His greed motivated him to call for Paul more often and expose himself to the appeal of the Gospel message.

Doing the Jews a favor – Porcius Festus the new Roman Procurator (Governor) of Judea

- ✧ But after **two years** Porcius Festus succeeded Felix; and Felix, **wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul bound.** [Acts 24:27]
 - ✧ Politicians, unwilling to do the right thing because of outside pressure from special interest groups, just tend to pass the problem on to the next one to take their place. Injustice in government circles is not new.