

Acts 24 Paul before Felix

Now after five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders and an attorney named Tertullus, and they brought charges against Paul to the governor. 2 After Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began accusing him, saying to the governor, "Since we have attained great peace through you, and since reforms are being carried out for this nation by your foresight,

3 we acknowledge this in every way and everywhere, most excellent Felix, with all thankfulness. 4 But, that I may not weary you further, I beg you to grant us a brief hearing, by your kindness. 5 For we have found this man a public menace and one who stirs up dissensions among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

6 And he even tried to desecrate the temple, so indeed we arrested him. 8 By interrogating him yourself concerning all these matters, you will be able to ascertain the things of which we are accusing him." 9 The Jews also joined in the attack, asserting that these things were so.

10 And when the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded: "Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense, 11 since you can take note of the fact that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 And neither in the temple did they find me carrying on a discussion with anyone or causing a riot, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city itself.

13 Nor can they prove to you the things of which they now accuse me. 14 But I confess this to you, that in accordance with the Way, which they call a sect, I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and is written in the Prophets; 15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

16 In view of this I also do my best to maintain a blameless conscience both before God and before other people, always. 17 Now after several years I came to bring charitable gifts to my nation and to present offerings, 18 in which they found me occupied in the temple, having been purified, without any crowd or uproar. But there were some Jews from Asia

19 who ought to have been present before you and to have been bringing charges, if they should have anything against me. 20 Or else have these men themselves declare what violation they discovered when I stood before the Council, 21 other than in regard to this one declaration which I shouted while standing among them, 'For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you today!'"

22 But Felix, having quite accurate knowledge about the Way, adjourned them, saying, "When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case." 23 He gave orders to the centurion for Paul to be kept in custody and yet have some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from providing for his needs.

24 Now some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla his wife, who was Jewish, and he

sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus. 25 But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and responded, "Go away for now, and when I have an opportunity, I will summon you."

26 At the same time he was also hoping that money would be given to him by Paul; therefore he also used to send for him quite often and talk with him. 27 But after two years had passed, Felix was succeeded by Porcius Festus; and Felix, wanting to do the Jews a favor, left Paul imprisoned.

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's Questions and insights

1. Having gone through the ordeal of getting Paul into court to defend himself against an alleged charge.
2. Paul's accusers hire a barrister of the law to present their charges to Felix against Paul.
3. Tertullus tries to 'matter of fact' Felix perspective in his handling of the case by suggesting a brief hearing.
4. The charge is 'Paul is a pest and a man of dissension, he is a ringleader of a sect'.
5. The sect known as the Nazarenes where like freedom fighters in rebellion to Roman occupation.
6. A charge of dissension was suggested so we arrested him, to try him according to Jewish law.
7. Even though they were under Roman rule the Jews were still able to live within their own Jewish culture, providing it never contravened Roman law.
8. Tertullus suggests that the commander had been excessively violent and took Paul back from them.
9. Why was Tertullus expectant that Felix would find Paul guilty of the allegations?
10. The mob of Jews try, through outbursts, to pressurise Felix with jeering!
11. Paul was silent until Felix invites him to speak to defend himself.
12. Paul also speaks well of Felix and how his leading of the people on behalf of the Jewish people had gone.
13. Paul tells his story, his defence, of their allegations, he denies all charges except one.
14. He declares, 'I am on trial for shouting out regarding the resurrection of the dead.'
15. He enforces his argument with the sect that they called 'The Way' and declares their beliefs are in agreement with Jewish law and the teachings of the prophets.
16. Paul believes in the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked, even as the Jewish Pharisees did.
17. Paul says 'having come to an understanding of these truths I now seek to live in the right way.'
18. I came to the temple to bring money and offering, I went in, having just had a

ceremonious cleansing.

19. Paul declares it was the Jews from Asia that created a problem on the streets that caused the riot.

20. It seems that Felix had some understanding about the sect known as 'The Way'.

21. Felix decides to put off these judgements until the commander arrives.

22. It was within Felix power to decide Pauls outcome.

23. Felix puts Paul under house arrest with some privileges.

24. Felix and his wife Drusilla enjoyed listening to Paul until he revealed insight into accountability of the sinner.

25. Paul's teachings focused around righteousness, self-control and judgement.

26. Felix and Drusilla have a love/hate relationship with Paul. Why?

27. It would seem that Felix had an anticipation that Paul would pay him a sum of money for his release. Corruption at the top is a bad thing!

28. After two years Felix is moved on but decides to keep Paul under house arrest so he could please the Jews.