

Q: Felix was a governor of Judea, who had a reputation of cruelty. But Paul gains a audience with Felix and his Jewish wife. What specific things does Paul share with them (vv.24-25)? What was Felix's immediate response?

Q: Felix was "alarmed" by Paul's message; it made him squirm. But he put off hearing any more from Paul until it would be convenient for him. He would have further conversations with him (where Paul planted many "gospel seeds!"). In a similar way, what excuses do people today have for putting off Christ until a "time that suits" them? (see 2 Cor 6:2 for why that is foolish)

Q: Paul was left in prison for two years (although having some liberty and visitation rights). Felix seemed to think Paul was innocent but tragically was more concerned about what the Jews would say if he released Paul. How do we allow public opinion to affect our devotion to Jesus and His righteousness in our lives?

Q: God continued to use Paul as he waited in prison. How has God used you in times of waiting, to teach you something important or to help point others to Jesus?



Harvest Growing Deeper

Evangelical Free Church

*A Disciplemaking Tool of Harvest Evangelical Free Church
(for personal and/or small group study)*

Week of November 8, 2020

Acts 23-24

Compelled by the Holy Spirit, Paul returns to the Jerusalem church, reporting God's amazing work done among the Gentiles. But the jealous Jews cause another riot to break out. Yet Paul is rescued by the Roman authorities. He shares his testimony of how he met Jesus and how He has transformed his life. Paul will yet go through struggles, but the Lord is with him. He will remain faithful.

Q: Describe a time when the Lord clearly met you and comforted you just when you needed it most.

Q: (23:1) How does Paul begin his defense before the Jewish leadership counsel (the Sanhedrin)? How can we try to live our daily lives with a "clear conscience" before God. Why is this important?

Q: Describe the exchange between Paul and the Jewish high priest? (see Lev 19:15 and Exo 22:28). How did Paul show respect (but also truth!) to those in authority? (see also what Jesus said in Matt 23:27)

Q: (vv.6-10) Paul spoke of the resurrection and caused a stir among the counsel. Roman soldiers had to rescue him as the discussion grew violent. (v.11) How did the Lord personally comfort him?

*the Christian life may be a long and difficult road, but trust in the Lord. His sustaining presence with give us courage and strength to press on!

Q: (vv.12-35) How deep was the Jews' hatred for Paul? (v.14) How were the Jewish priests and leaders just as guilty as these conspirators?

*the OT Law should have led them to Jesus, but instead they became proud & hateful. How can we learn to love others and share God's grace?

Q: God will expose sin especially when we least expect it (Num 32:23). How is the plan to ambush and kill Paul thwarted?

Q: This is the first time in Scripture we find Paul had a sister and nephew. The nephew took great risk in sharing the plot with the authorities. Ironically, the Romans got involved in Paul's rescue.

Q: How have you boldly stood up for someone whom others despised, maybe at risk of ridicule or persecution yourself?

Q: The Roman commander went to great lengths to protect this prisoner (Paul). Why? What could happen to him if he did not?

Q: How was God working in Paul's life during this incident? How is God showing Paul that He is still in total control? How may this comfort us in the midst of our trials today?

Q: How might have Paul's experiences with Roman authorities shed some light on his comments in Romans 13:1-7? When should Christ-followers submit to authority and when should we resist? (See Acts 4:8-20; 5:29)

Q: Ananias the high priest and his lawyer laid out their case against Paul, saying he was stirring up riots wherever he went (which in a sense was true—Paul either helped bring a revival or a riot to the cities he preach Christ!). How did Paul defend himself (vv.10-21)?

Q: What did Paul have in common with his accusers (vv.14-15)?
