



Acts: Paul Kept in Custody

Nov 1

INTRODUCTION: Rescued from Jewish lynching by the Romans Paul has given his defence before his accusers and the Roman governor in Caesarea, Felix. Today we see how Felix decided to keep Paul in custody—for 2 years!

KEY POINT: justice, direct witness under custody, waiting

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Rob McFadden, 2 Chr 29)

- What was the sermon about?
- What were the key points?
- Key takeaways...? Questions to keep considering?

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Doug Reider)

- What was the sermon about?
- What were the key points?
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READ: Acts 24:22–27

QUESTIONS:

1. *V. 22- Felix had been a slave who rose to the office of governor. Historian Tacitus described his indulging in cruelty and lust. Married 3 times, Josephus describes him seducing Drusilla, the wife of a king of Emesa (Jordan) through a magician to marry him.*
2. **What does it mean that Felix had “an accurate knowledge of the Way.”**
3. How is Christianity “the Way” (c.f. Jn 14:6)?
4. **Why did Felix delay justice? Why is delaying justice wrong? (Dt 16:19; Eccl 8:11). In what ways does this happen today: personally, in the church, in the courts?**
5. **V. 23- Paul was left in custody with great liberty. What are some of the potential reasons why Felix did this (c.f v. 26)?¹**

¹ As a Roman he was given preferential treatment; he wasn't viewed as a threat, to satisfy the Jews, for selfish reasons including bribes and spiritual entertainment.

6. *V. 24a-To help him determine the case, or maybe out of interest, Felix brought his wife Jewish wife, Drusilla. She was the daughter of Herod Agrippa I (who had opposed the Apostles, Acts 12), great-grand daughter of Herod the Great. She was ravishingly young and beautiful. Felix had arranged her divorce so he could marry her, both for her beauty and for political clout.*
7. **V. 24b- “faith in Christ Jesus” is shorthand for the Gospel. From what we know Paul said or wrote elsewhere, what might Paul have said?**
8. **V. 25a- How might the context of Felix and Drusilla’s lives determined what Paul emphasized? (i.e. righteousness/justice and self-control [lust]).²**
9. **Regardless, how do these three things apply to all sinners? Are we as direct as Paul in speaking of them?**
10. **V. 26- Why do you think Felix was alarmed? Yet why did he keep inviting Paul back? What did Paul have that he didn’t?**
11. **Why do people put off Christ, or doing the right thing, today?**
12. *V. 27- Paul was in custody for 2 years! One might wonder why God, in His providence, would waste such an Apostle. However, what opportunities for witness would/did Paul gain in custody that he wouldn’t have had otherwise? (What was Luke doing during this time? Philip, Acts 21:8)*
13. Given the lost state of Felix and Drusilla, why might Paul not have minded?
14. **Remembering Acts 23:11, how did Paul take courage?**
15. **How does the Lord accomplish His plan even when it isn’t our plan?**
16. **What does it mean to wait on the Lord? (c.f. Isa 40:29–31). Like Jesus’ promise to Paul, what helps us wait?**

NEXT: Nov 8- Acts 25:1–12, Paul Appeals to Caesar

² Also, the Three Tenses of Salvation: justified by faith in Christ, overcome temptation by the Spirit, find deliverance on the day of Judgement.