



## Acts: Paul Appeals to Caesar

Nov 8

**INTRODUCTION:** Paul has been in prison in Caesarea for 2 years when a new governor of Judea was appointed, Festus. He seems to have been generally fair, yet prioritized gaining favour with his subjects rather than upholding justice.

**KEY POINT:** pleasing others, justice, wisdom, witness

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Chris Middleton, 2 Cor 5:16–21)

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

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (Peter Lemont, Ps 40:1–3)

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

**READ:** Acts 25:1–12

### QUESTIONS:

1. **V. 1-** Being new to the province, why did Festus go up to Jerusalem?
2. **V. 2-** Of all the things the Jews could have brought to their attention, what did they fixate upon?
3. **V. 3-** Why did they desire Paul to be brought from Caesarea to Jerusalem for a trial? (c.f. Acts 23)
4. **V. 4-** How did Festus unwittingly protect Paul?
5. **V. 6-** How is this verse *deja-vu*?
6. **V.7-** Why is this recap so short? What were the serious accusations? Why must any charge be supported by evidence? (2 Cor 13:11)
7. *The charges were political yet the evidence was theological.*
8. **V. 8-** Caesar is mentioned for the first time. What did Paul again insist? How does this echo Acts 23:29?

9. **V. 9-** Festus was in his right to use the Sanhedrin as part of his council in this case, however, how was this less about justice and more about pleasing the Jews?
10. **What does the Bible say about pleasing man vs pleasing God? (Pr 29:25; Gal 1:10; 1 The 2:4). Why will we never be able to please man but always be able to please God?**
11. *V. 9- Again, Festus unwittingly helps Paul in his attempt to please the Jews by giving him the choice.*
12. **Vv. 10–11-** Paul was probably growing impatient. Yet what did Paul fear Festus would do? If Paul hoped to escape why did he need to leave Judea?
13. In using his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to Caesar, this “supreme court,” how did he rest the case from the people-pleasing governor?
14. **Read Mt 10:16. How Jesus command essential for effective witness, then and now?**
15. *V. 12- Festus seems to have been unprepared for this. He couldn't release him for fear of offending the Jews. He could sentence him for fear of offending Roman justice. He had to send him.*
16. *The Caesar at this time was Nero, who initially was somewhat peaceful but later turned and became cruel and unstable.*

*\*We'll remain in Judea for one more chapter before Paul heads to Rome.*

**NEXT:** Nov 15- Acts 26:12–32, Paul's Conversion