



## Acts: Paul Before Felix

Oct25

**INTRODUCTION:** Saved from murder Paul is in protective custody at the Roman military headquarters for Judea, Caesarea Maritima; a large manmade harbour. Here, in another attempt to arrive at the truth, the Romans call the High Priest to bring his charge against Paul and for Paul to make his defence. Paul is caught between the weight of Jewish history and the might of Roman conquest.

**KEY POINT:** apologetics, testimony, witness, response

**A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Paul Interrogated, Acts 22:22–23:11)

- How does this passage speak to acceptance/rejection of witness?
- ...of the legality of Christianity?
- ...of witness under trial?
- What other lessons did we learn?

**P.M. SERMON RECAP** (Acts 23:12–34, The Plot and Protection of Paul)

- How does this passage speak to acceptance/rejection of witness?
- ...of the legality of Christianity?
- ...of witness under trial?
- What other lessons did we learn?

**READ:** Acts 24:1–21

### QUESTIONS:

1. **Have you ever been to a courtroom? What is the atmosphere and proceedings being set forth?**
2. **Who is the prosecution and who are the defence?**
3. *Paul is innocent, both of Roman and Jewish wrong doing (he's like Jesus). He has sought to uphold both (c.f. Rom 3:31). He is a loyal citizen of Rome and a loyal son of Israel. This double denial and double insistence pervades these chapters.*

The [unbelieving] Jews

1. *V. 1–The prosecutors is a rather select (and confident, v. 8) group lead by one Tertullus (Latin), the lawyer.*
  2. *V.2– While the prosecution always makes an accusation (charge) this really is an accusation. **Have you ever been falsely accused? How did it feel?***
  3. **C.f. Acts 23:11– Why could Paul have peace before the Romans and Jews?**
  4. **Vv. 2–4– Given the Jewish hatred of the Romans (and Roman cruelty to the Jews), to what level is this insincere? How is this an example of flattery?**
  5. *Tertullus made 5 accusations. **What political overtones did they have? How were these false or perversions of the truth?***
    - i. A plague:
    - ii. And international rioter:
    - iii. A Nazarene ringleader:
    - iv. A profaner:
    - v. “We seized him”:
    - vi. What were they seeking?
  6. **Why do people hate truth? When someone is opposed to the truth, what are their only options?**
  7. **Why must we always be accurate (objective) in what we say and describe as Christians?**
  8. *V. 9– The Jews were those with Tertullus (v. 1).*
- Paul (again a defence, 1 Pet 3:15; his confession, v. 14)
9. *V. 10– How does Paul not rely on flattery but acknowledges the truth?*
  10. *Vv. 11–Paul is emphatic in his rejection of their accusations. He divides his defence into two halves: solidarity and order*
  11. **Solidarity– How does Paul see “the Way” as in keeping with Judaism?**
  12. **Order– How does Paul share how he was behaving in an orderly manner? Who is his charge against (v. 18), and why?**
  13. **Why must Christians remain calm and objective as we bear witness under trial? (c.f. 1 Pe 2:12).**

**NEXT:** Nov 1– Acts 24:22–27, Paul Kept in Custody