

Paul Before Festus
Lesson 9
Acts 25:1-22

Governor Felix kept Paul in prison during his two year term of office and sent often for Paul to talk with him. He hoped that Paul would offer him a bribe, but when he did not, Felix left Paul in prison as *“a favor to the Jews.”* (Acts 24:27) The decision of what to do with Paul was left to his successor Porcius Festus.

Festus and the Jews 25:1-5

1. Festus arrived in Caesarea as governor of Judea and three days later made a trip. Where did Festus go? (Acts 25:1)
2. While he was there, who came to see him? (Acts 25:2a)
 - What was the purpose of this visit? (Acts 25:2b)
3. Using Acts 25:3:
 - How did Luke describe the way they made their request?
 - What approach did they take?
 - What was the request?
 - What did Luke reveal about their intent?
4. That was not God’s plan! Review again what the Lord had told Paul. (Acts 23:11)
5. What was Festus’ answer to this request? (Acts 25:4, 5a)
 - Notice Festus added an “if.” What was that “if?” (Acts 25:5b)

Paul's Trial – Acts 25:6-12

6. Using Acts 25:6:
 - How long did Festus stay in Jerusalem?

 - When he returned to Caesarea, how long did he wait before calling for Paul?
7. When Paul appeared, the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him. What did Luke record about the charges they brought? (Acts 25:7)
8. This was Paul's first appearance before Festus. What did Paul say in defense to these charges? (Acts 25:8)
 - **Reflect:** What additional defense did Paul add that he had not said before Felix in chapter 24? Please comment on this.
9. Using Acts 25:9:
 - What did Luke add about Festus' motive?

 - What did Festus ask Paul?

 - What three points did Paul make in answering his question? (Acts 25:10)
10. Paul then gave Festus some "ifs." Fill in Paul's additions from verse 11a.
 - If I

 - Then I

- But if
- Then
- At this point, to whom did Paul make a very strategic appeal? (Acts 25:11b)

11. As a Roman citizen, Paul's appeal changed everything. What did Festus do? (Acts 25:12a)

- What was Festus' response to Paul's appeal? (Acts 25:12b)

Festus and Agrippa - Acts 25:13-22

12. Who came to Caesarea to visit Festus? (Acts 25:13)

13. How long did they stay? (Acts 25:14a)

14. Festus used that as an opportunity to discuss Paul's case. How did he introduce this case? (Acts 25:14b)

15. Festus stated that he'd gone to Jerusalem and the chief priests and elders of the Jews brought charges against Paul. What had they asked of Festus? (Acts 25:15)

16. What can we discover about Roman law from Festus' statement in verse 16?

17. Festus assured the king that he did not delay in hearing this case, but what did he find surprising?

- Acts 25:18
- Acts 25:19

18. What did Festus admit? (Acts 25:20a)

19. Festus told the king of his offer for Paul to return to Jerusalem and stand trial there, as well as Paul's refusal to do so and his appeal to Caesar. (Acts 25:20b-21a) What had Festus decided to do with Paul? (Act 25:21b)

20. Using Acts 25:22:
 - What was the king's comment to Festus after this discussion of Paul?

 - What was Festus' reply to the king?