

Law, Honor, Treachery and Love – Paul Before Festus

Acts 25

My goal is for you to have a feel for the context, people and events of Acts 25 – to be there fully, as it were.

Context –

1. Change of Command – Felix to Festus
2. Tour of New Duty Station
3. Gaining favor??? – History of Pilot and Felix..and now Festus
4. Paul Presents his case – again...
5. Politics and the New Governor – Agrippa and Bernice
6. Stages of Roman legal system – for Romans
7. Paul's defense – or was it something else?

Cast of Characters – in order of entry

1. Portcius Festus
2. The Jewish Chorus
3. Paul
4. Caesar – in absentia
5. Agrippa II
6. Bernice

Linguistic Note

1. The English word *witness* is translated from the Greek work *martyr*.

Questions for the Team.

1. What do you think was the purpose of Festus' trip to Jerusalem?
2. Luke writes Festus was trying to gain favor with the Jews, given the history (mentioned above) of Roman's trying to gain favor with the Jews, why do you think Festus would at least look like he was trying to do so?
3. What could you find out about Festus?
4. Have you changed your opinions about the motivation of the accusers?
5. What do you think was Paul's mix of feelings about his appeal to Ceasar?
6. What do you think about what is described as Paul's defense? Do you think his goal was to defend himself?
7. What do you know about Agrippa II?
8. And Bernice?
9. What do you think about Agrippa's exoneration of Paul?
10. Which character do you find most interesting?
11. What do you think is the most important act or interaction of Chapter 25.

I know that this time of year and in our lives can be stressful. I wish for each of you unexpected gentle blessings – and look forward to seeing you soon.

Catherine